



**BUZZ SAWYER: THIS MAD DOG FEEDS ON DICK MURDOCH'S BLOOD**

October 1983

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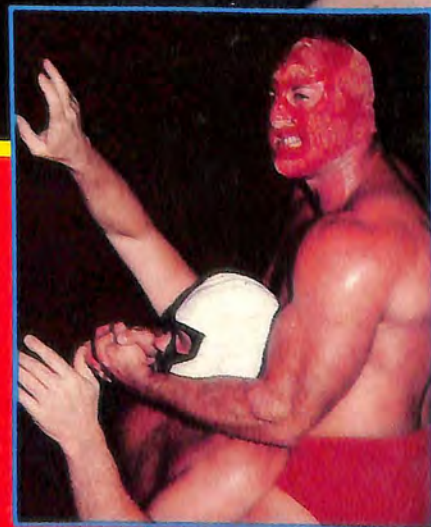
# THE **Wrestler**

**Record-Shattering Seventh Title Reign**  
**HARLEY RACE DEFEATS RIC FLAIR FOR THE NWA WORLD TITLE**



**Mr. Olympia Breaks His Silence:**  
**"WRESTLING II IS NOT THE**  
**MAN THE FANS LOVE"**

**The Briscos Turn Bad:**  
**NOW THERE IS NO HOPE FOR WRESTLING**







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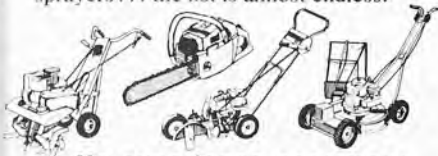
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# THE Wrestler

## CONTENTS/OCTOBER 1983

- 6 WHAT'S HAPPENING**  
Senior Editor Bill Apter's monthly news update
- 8 YOUR LETTERS**  
Congratulations Harley; Stand By Ted; Rare Respect For Dusty
- 10 CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS**  
Eyewitness coverage of the month's major matches
- 12 YOU ASKED US**  
Top wrestlers answer your questions
- 14 THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN**  
Praise and abuse to the wrestlers who deserve it most
- 20 RATINGS ANALYSIS**  
The dual-ranking dilemma
- 22 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**  
The sport's most respected rankings
- 24 X-RAY**  
Our panel of experts examines Eric Embry
- 26 Q & A**  
Ron Bass speaks out about Dusty Rhodes
- 28 INTRODUCING JOE SAVOLDI**  
Is he another Rick Martel in the making?
- 30 MR. OLYMPIA BREAKS HIS SILENCE: "WRESTLING II IS NOT THE MAN THE FANS LOVE"**  
Could the fans have been wrong about him all along?
- 32 BUZZ SAWYER: THIS MAD DOG FEEDS ON DICK MURDOCH'S BLOOD**  
It seems as if nothing can pry these two grapplers apart
- 34 RECORD SHATTERING SEVENTH TITLE REIGN: HARLEY RACE DEFEATS RIC FLAIR FOR THE NWA WORLD TITLE**  
Wrestling history is rewritten
- 38 PROMOTER ANN GUNKEL: WRESTLING'S LEADING LADY**  
A profile of this successful businesswoman
- 40 THE BRISCOS TURN BAD: NOW THERE IS NO HOPE FOR WRESTLING**  
Who ever thought it would happen to Jack and Jerry?
- 42 J.J. DILLON'S ULTIMATUM TO ANGELO MOSCA: "GIVE UP THE CANADIAN TITLE . . . OR GET OUT OF FLORIDA!"**  
Can the notorious manager really be serious?
- 44 FRANK TUNNEY: HE MADE THE GARDENS GROW**  
A tribute to this legendary promoter
- 46 BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE**  
Candid photos of your favorite wrestling stars

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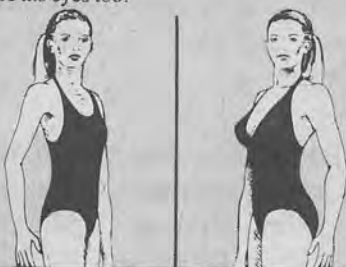
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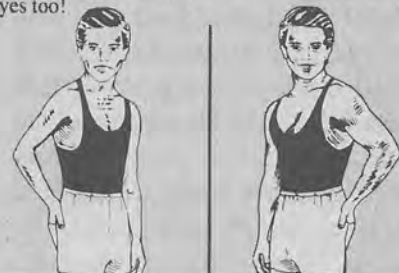
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Things are beginning to turn around in the career of **Hulk Hogan**. As you know, Hogan left the AWA in a depressed state of mind after failing in several attempts to wrest the AWA World championship from **Nick Bockwinkel**. Hulk ventured to Japan, where he recently defeated **Antonio Inoki** in the final round of the prestigious International Gran Prix tournament. Now that he has his confidence back, is Hogan thinking about returning to the United States

and challenging Bockwinkel again? "I never lost my confidence," Hogan replied. "I left the area because I felt I let the fans down. I knew that in order to take Bockwinkel's title, I had to first get rid of his weasel manager, **Bobby Heenan**. I thought I could do it and I was wrong. I could have beaten Bockwinkel, but I couldn't beat both of them. At this time, I do not plan to go back to the AWA. I will be busy defending this title. I love my fans in the

AWA, but I just cannot bring myself to return. I don't know if I ever will." Too bad Hulk. A large part of our daily mail is from AWA fans who would give anything to have you back.

Puerto Rico has been the site of some great mat action in recent months. In addition to World Wrestling Council champion **Carlos Colon**, **Pedro Morales**, **Ox Baker**, and **Kendo Nagasaki** have been headlining the island's action-packed cards. A point of interest is that Colon defeated NWA World champion **Harley Race** just a few days before Harley won the belt from **Ric Flair**. Colon has asked for a much-deserved title match, but has not yet received an answer from Race.

We got a very hostile telephone call from **Bulldog Bob Brown**, demanding that we let everyone know that he and **Buzz Tyler** currently hold two tag team belts. "We hold the Vancouver International and Century States tag team titles," Brown said. "And if you wouldn't waste all your space

(Continued on page 50)



Hulk Hogan has his confidence back after winning the International Gran Prix tournament in Japan.



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# YOUR LETTERS

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## CONGRATULATIONS, HARLEY

An open letter to Harley Race:

Congratulations on winning your record seventh NWA World title. It's a pleasure to be a fan of the greatest wrestler ever. No other man has accomplished what you have, and your record will probably stand forever. You now own the greatest title in all of wrestling. Go out there and de-

fend it with dignity and honor, just as I know you can. I wish you a very happy and long reign as champion.

Once again, congratulations on your record breaking-victory.

CARL SMITH  
Ironton, MO

*[Editor's note: An exclusive feature story on Harley Race's title-winning effort begins on page 34.]*



Harley Race, his eyes closed in disbelief after capturing the NWA World title for the seventh time, has his arms raised by former AWA World champion Verne Gagne, promoter Jim Crockett, and referee Sonny Myers.



Ted DiBiase receives a warning from referee Johnny Usher for choking Dick Slater.

## STAND BY TED

I'm writing this letter to comment on a letter written by Doris Anderson in the July 1983 issue.

I just want to ask her one question: Doris, how could you say you cared about Ted DiBiase just as much as a fan could and then say he doesn't deserve respect?

So he's made mistakes; everybody has. It seems to me that you're making the mistake of turning against the wrestler and not supporting the man. If you cared about him, you would still stay with him.



Sure, Tommy Rich realized his mistakes, but it took him some time. All we have to do is give Ted all the time he needs. If you *do* care about him, you will give him all the time he needs. I'm going to. I love him, and I'll *never* turn on him.

GENIE HELLER  
Sioux Falls, SD

### RARE RESPECT FOR DUSTY

An open letter to Dusty Rhodes:

I normally wouldn't have any respect for, or even side with, Dusty Rhodes. But with Kevin Sullivan as his foe, it's a different story. I used to have a lot of respect for Kevin, before his Satan worship took over the man inside of him. I am a Godly man and I am upset that Kevin took the wrong road. As for Rhodes, no other man to my knowledge has taken up the task of being willing to show Sullivan the right way at any cost, so I want Rhodes to know I am behind him all the way. I hope Rhodes beats the devil out of Sullivan. I would like to remind Rhodes of a Bible verse taken from Ephesians 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the dark-



Kevin Sullivan receives a boost from The Purple Haze as he climbs back into the ring during his match with Dusty Rhodes. Reader Gary Ferris supports Dusty in his holy war against "The Prince of Darkness."

ness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

GARY FERRIS  
Guthrie, OK

### NO TO REDNECKS

There are two classes of people in the southern United States. There are rednecks and then there are sophisticated individuals like myself. So why do I have to see vagrants like Tommy Rich,

Brad Armstrong, and Dick Murdoch week after week? I guess that I should not complain too much, since there are some wrestlers with class. Paul Ellering and his wrestlers are very high-class people.

RICK SCHUBERT  
Harriman, TN

### NO RESPECT FOR VON ERICH

In light of what David Von Erich did to Jim Garvin's valet, Sunshine, I've lost all my respect for him, although I still admire the rest of his family. Spanking a woman who is about half his size is disgusting, and worse than that, he's threatening to do it again. I believe David likes to pick on Sunshine because he obviously can't beat Mr. Garvin. If David does it again, I believe he should be fined \$2,000 and taken off the list of contenders. For what he has already done, I believe he at least deserves to deliver a public apology to Sunshine and Garvin. Hopefully, he will learn never to strike a woman as beautiful as Sunshine again.

DAVID MARSDEN  
Santo, TX □



Paul Ellering, applying an armlock on Tito Santana, brings some class to wrestling in the South, writes Rick Schubert. Rick detests Tommy Rich, Brad Armstrong, and Dick Murdoch.

# CORRESPONDENTS Reports

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did! Send your reports to:  
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**HOUSTON, TX—Correspondent: Robert McCullough**—The evening's main event, AWA World Champion Nick Bockwinkel defended his title against Dusty Rhodes, who was making a rare appearance in his native state. The two ringwise veterans were justifiably cautious at the outset of the match. Rhodes, after a careful study of Bockwinkel's movements, attempted a leg sweep. Bockwinkel's quick reflexes came into play,

however, and he drove a knee into the lunging Rhodes' head. Bockwinkel acted swiftly, taking advantage of his superior position to pummel his opponent with punches and kicks. Dusty managed to return to his feet, only to be thrown through the ropes by the champion. Rejuvenated by the cheers of the crowd, Rhodes returned to the ring ready to brawl with Bockwinkel. "The American Dream" hit Bockwinkel with siz-



AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel and Dusty Rhodes come together for a battle of fingerlocks.

zling right and left hands, but then made the grave mistake of headbutting his foe in such a position that only *he* felt the effects of the blow. Rhodes hit the canvas, and Bockwinkel climbed to the second rope to deliver a kneedrop. Rhodes alertly moved out of the way in time and quickly applied the figure-four leglock. Bockwinkel received unexpected help from Ted DiBiase, who ran into the ring from the dressing room area and struck Rhodes on the back of the head with the cast on his right hand. Rhodes, the winner by disqualification, was left unconscious. Bockwinkel, AWA belt in hand, walked away unharmed.

In other bouts, Junkyard Dog and Mr. Wrestling II defeated Mr. Olympia and King Kong Bundy ... Bob Backlund beat Samoan Afa ... Tito Santana and Mil Mas-



Greg Valentine retained his U.S. title, coming from behind to score an illegal pinfall victory over Wahoo McDaniel.

caras defeated Masked Superstar and Super Destroyer ... Butch Reed beat Rip Rogers.

**ROCKY MOUNT, NC—Correspondent: Jeff Kenney**—Greg Valentine put his United States heavyweight title on the line  
(Continued on page 54)





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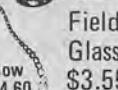


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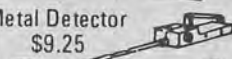
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# YOU ASKED US

**Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO BOX 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!**

**Q:** "My question is for 'Exotic' Adrian Street: I've seen you wrestle in person and on television. I know a lot of people make fun and spread rumors about you. What I want to ask is why do you want to be so exotic? Why not just be a normal person?"—Derick Singleton, Miston, TN

**A:** "This is a question that simply proves to me how many people misunderstand me and



Adrian Steet has his hair groomed by his valet, Miss Linda. Adrian poses the question: Why be ordinary?

what I am trying to achieve in life," Adrian Street replies. "People can make fun and spread rumors, and all that does is point out their own ignorance. As for wanting to be exotic, I might as well ask you a similar question: Why do you want to be so ordinary?"

\*\*\*

**Q:** "This one is for the Brisco brothers: How does it feel to have put the knife in Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood's backs? You, Jack and Jerry, are nothing but spoilsports. Are you all going to join Paul Jones and his cast of idiots?"—Jocelyn Hodges, Hamlin, WV

**A:** Jack Brisco replies: "I don't think we're putting knives in anybody's back. All we're doing is correcting injustices against us. Double-crossers and traitors don't deserve respect. As for Paul Jones, I have absolutely nothing to say about him."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I would like to ask Gorilla Monsoon which opponent, in

all his years as a wrestler, gave him the roughest match of his career."—Michael DiFilippo, Attleboro Falls, MA

**A:** "Without hesitation, I would have to say that the toughest opponent of my career was Bruno Sammartino," Monsoon replies. "I had a series of matches against him in the



Bruno Sammartino lowers Gorilla Monsoon to his knees. Monsoon calls Bruno his toughest opponent ever.

early '60s, and it would be very hard to pick a single match that was the roughest. I know one match went well over an hour in Madison Square Garden. That's one that really sticks out in my mind as one of the toughest, if not *the* toughest of my career."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I was at the wrestling matches in Cleveland recently, and I wanted to get an autograph of Tommy 'Wildfire' Rich. I had heard for so long about how nice he is to the fans, but when he came out to the ring and left, he was acting very cold. I didn't like it at all. Why did you do that, Tommy? There's no reason to treat your loyal fans that way!"—Marlene Atkins, Cleveland, OH

**A:** "I'm sorry you feel slighted like that, Marlene, but the truth of the matter is that some-  
(Continued on page 56)



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# Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



**THUMBS UP** to Earnie Shavers: After compiling an astounding boxing record of 80 wins in 95 fights (with 77 knockouts), Shavers decided to move from one ring sport to another—professional wrestling. As a referee, Shavers has been exemplary. His presence in the ring has served to maintain control in such wild feuds as Tully Blanchard vs. Gino Hernandez in Texas and Tony Atlas vs. Ric Flair in Georgia. While some wrestling referees find it difficult to keep order in the ring, Shavers is not about to be bullied by anyone. We congratulate him on his success as a referee and look forward to his continued participation in wrestling.



**THUMBS UP** to Eddie Gilbert: His recent involvement in a nearly fatal automobile accident in Pennsylvania landed him in the hospital with a broken vertebra and a stint in the intensive care unit. Gilbert's career was a hairbreadth away from ending entirely. Bravely, Gilbert fought his injury, underwent physical therapy, and now it appears as if he may be able to wrestle again some time in the near future. He'll have to start slowly, against opponents who won't push him to the limit, but the fact that he will be wrestling again at all is a miracle in itself. Gilbert's courage through these trying times is an inspiration.



**THUMBS UP** to Dusty Rhodes: In the state of Florida, Kevin Sullivan continues to run amuck. Sullivan's satanic beliefs, coupled with the power of The Purple Haze, have enabled him to gain a considerable power base in that state. Now that power base threatens to spread out of Florida and into the bordering states, something that few, if any, wrestling fans would like to see. Dusty Rhodes has taken upon himself a monumental task: stop Sullivan and The Purple Haze's advance and cleanse them of their misguided ideas and satanic desires. We wish the "American Dream" the best of luck in achieving this goal.



**THUMBS UP** to Jerry Lawler: In the wake of criticism regarding Lawler's frequent trips away from his native city of Memphis, the self-proclaimed "King of Wrestling" has reorganized his schedule to better accommodate his hometown fans. Many people had been saying that Lawler had abandoned his Memphis supporters in favor of a campaign against AWA kingpin Nick Bockwinkel. Lawler admitted that he had aspirations toward the AWA throne, but he never thought he would encounter such criticism. Although we don't always agree with Lawler's beliefs and policies, we're glad to see that he's taking his fans into account and spending more time in Memphis.



# Thumbs Down



**THUMBS DOWN** to Magnificent Muraco: During a recently televised segment of WWF wrestling, Jimmy Snuka stepped into the ring for a regularly scheduled match while Muraco was being interviewed on "Buddy Rogers' Corner." Muraco became incensed, charging that Snuka was infringing on his interview time. The WWF Intercontinental champion walked over to the ring and spit at Snuka. "The Superfly" then leaped over the top rope and drove Muraco to the mat with a flying bodypress. A melee ensued, with Snuka tearing Muraco's clothes off his back and Muraco ramming Snuka's head with the ring microphone. While we would have hoped that Snuka could have held his temper, the blame for this fracas has to rest on Muraco's shoulders.



**THUMBS DOWN** to Ted DiBiase: Even after his conversion to rule-breaking, many fans have maintained their support for DiBiase. The volume of mail from fans who promise to stand by DiBiase until he changes his ways back to those of the scientific wrestler is astounding. But DiBiase fails to acknowledge these fans. Indeed, he has become even more disgusting in his actions, having made a habit of interfering in matches by sneaking up behind his enemies and smashing them in the head with the cast on his arm. If fans continue to support DiBiase in spite of his reprehensible actions, imagine the support he would receive if he would only recognize the errors of his ways and become a respectable wrestler again.



**THUMBS DOWN** to Mr. Saito: This notorious rulebreaker, infamous throughout the world for blinding opponents by throwing salt in their eyes, has moved into the AWA area claiming that he wants a title shot against World champion Nick Bockwinkel. In recent weeks, Saito has been wrestling within the confines of the rulebook, avoiding the use of salt, and building the trust of the AWA fans. We've seen Saito in the past, and we don't believe that he will be able to change his rulebreaking ways for long. We condemn Saito for trying to play possum with AWA wrestlers and fans, and we hope those very people will realize what Saito is capable of when he steps into the ring.



**THUMBS DOWN** to Barry Windham: Feuds in Florida have been growing to epic proportions in recent months. The Kevin Sullivan situation continues to grow more serious with every passing day, and Exotic Adrian Street and Dusty Rhodes have been going at each other at a dangerous level of intensity. The same can be said for Barry Windham and King Kong Mosca. Windham recently ambushed Mosca on televised wrestling from Florida, smashing him in the head *from behind* with a chair. Windham is a skilled wrestler. He should not feel he has to sneak-attack his enemies in order to get the best of them. Windham should restrict himself to competition within the squared circle, a pursuit at which he excels. □

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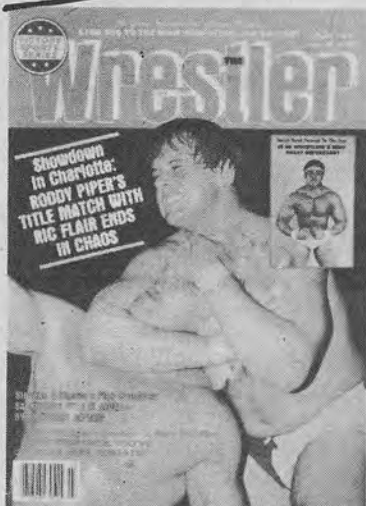
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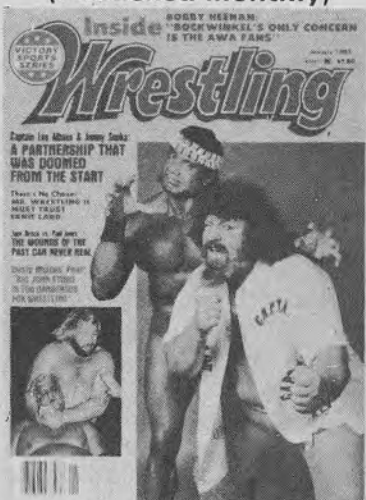


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# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans**

**W**restling history has been made! Some wrestling fans may find it hard to believe, but it's true: Harley Race has captured an unprecedented seventh NWA World heavyweight title. He accomplished this fantastic feat with a victory over Ric Flair at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis on June 10. For further details of the match, read the play-by-play description and analysis beginning on page 34.



Harley Race

Harley Race's win has initiated several changes in the ratings. First, Race is now rated number one in our Top 10 section, the spot previously occupied by Flair. Although the number one position need not necessarily be held by the NWA World champion, Harley Race's history making accomplishment certainly places him at the forefront of professional

wrestling today, hence the number one ranking.

You will also notice that Flair has moved to the number one contender spot in the NWA ratings. The rating was based on the skill of the wrestler and his potential for regaining the NWA title, not on the fact that he had held the belt for almost two years.

**They must be very busy men!** A close scrutiny of the ratings on pages 22 and 23 will show that a few wrestlers are ranked in more than one category.

The reason for this is quite simple: These are men who split their time evenly between two major areas, and have achieved success great enough in each area to warrant their being included in both ratings.

Mr. Wrestling II, for example, is ranked second in the Georgia area and fifth in the Mid-South. His success in Georgia has provided him with a higher ranking than in the Mid-South, but the combined

rankings, plus the fact that he has achieved such notable success in two regions, have placed him in the number seven spot for the entire NWA.

Another wrestler who has been successful in two areas (but not great enough to be considered in the NWA listing) is Kamala. Note that he's ranked fifth in the World Class area and number 10 in the Mid-South.



Tully Blanchard

## **So what about these guys?**

Other wrestlers wrestle in various areas of the country but do so only on a sporadic basis. Dusty Rhodes recently traveled to New York to wrestle in Madison Square Garden, but a one-night appearance in the Big Apple is certainly not reason enough to begin rating Dusty in the WWF.

A similar situation is beginning to develop in the Georgia area. Certain wrestlers, including Bob Sweetan, Bobby Jagers, Scott Casey, and Tully Blanchard, have begun to branch out and wrestle in the Georgia area.

Currently, these men wrestle primarily in the Southwest. Should they begin to spend more time wrestling in the Georgia area and make appearances on *World Championship Wrestling*, we will consider including them in the Georgia ratings.

A man like Mil Mascaras, as talented as he is, seldom appears in our ratings because he is constantly moving from one area of the country—and the world—to another. This month, based on his superb performance in recent weeks, Mascaras makes a rare entrance into the ratings: seventh in the World Class area.

**The address for mail:** We welcome comments and questions regarding our ratings. Send all correspondence to: *The Wrestler*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11571. □



Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

# THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes... Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do... go wherever you wish... do whatever you wish... without being detected... watch the antics of others behind closed doors... hear private conversations... make time run forward or backward... read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror"... find out what really happened in history... make your face old or young at will!

## BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you... literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

## AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make

## IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER...

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
- Personal Protection!
- Telepathy Made Easy!
- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
- Controlling a Conversation!
- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Witchcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
- Spells for Finding Lost Objects!
- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Battery!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

## YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help! With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost. "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

## AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



## MEET THE AUTHORS

**GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D.**, is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

**Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D.**, with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

## FREE... The Witches Protection Amulet For Just Examining The Witch Book...

When you receive your copy of THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, we will send you the witches protection pentagon medallion (See p. 26) that will protect you from evil. Whether you keep the book or not, this handsome, powerful amulet is yours as a gift. So send in this no-risk coupon right now!



3/4 inch dia.

Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

## SEND TODAY FOR YOUR NO-RISK COPY!

Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!

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## Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

# OFFICIAL WRESTLING

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Mr. Wrestling II



Jimmy Snuka

## TOP 10

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1— <b>HARLEY RACE</b><br>253, Kansas City, MO       | 6— <b>MR. WRESTLING II</b><br>232, Atlanta, GA |
| 2— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>497, Grenoble, France  | 7— <b>BOB BACKLUND</b><br>242, Princeton, MN   |
| 3— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX           | 8— <b>KEVIN VON ERICH</b><br>254, Denton, TX   |
| 4— <b>NICK BOCKWINKEL</b><br>245, Beverly Hills, CA | 9— <b>JIMMY SNUKA</b><br>250, Fiji Islands     |
| 5— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN         | 10— <b>ADRIAN ADONIS</b><br>251, New York, NY  |

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**JACK & JERRY BRISCO**  
Combined Weight: 455 pounds
  - 2—**GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL**  
Combined Weight: 445 pounds
  - 3—**BOBBY DUNCUM & KING KONG MOSCA**  
Combined Weight: 574 pounds
  - 4—**TED DiBIASE & MR. OLYMPIA**  
Combined Weight: 487 pounds
  - 5—**THE FREEBIRDS**  
Combined Weight: 791 pounds\*
  - 6—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
Combined Weight: 540 pounds
  - 7—**KELLY KINISKI & ONE MAN GANG**  
Combined Weight: 662 pounds
  - 8—**THE SAMOANS**  
Combined Weight: 598 pounds
  - 9—**THE SHEEPHERDERS**  
Combined Weight: 455 pounds
  - 10—**BULLDOG BROWN & BUZZ TYLER**  
Combined Weight: 561 pounds
- \*Combined weights reflect three team members

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

## NWA

World Champion:

**HARLEY RACE**  
253, Kansas City, MO

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 3—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
240, Pittsburgh, PA
- 4—**DORY FUNK JR.**  
244, Amarillo, TX
- 5—**RON BASS**  
285, Pampa, TX
- 6—**SCOTT McGHEE**  
220, Shipley, England
- 7—**MR. WRESTLING II**  
232, Atlanta, GA
- 8—**DEWEY ROBERTSON**  
247, Hamilton, Ontario
- 9—**BOB ARMSTRONG**  
229, Marietta, GA
- 10—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
254, Denton, TX

## AWA

World Champion:

**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 2—**WAHOO McDANIEL**  
260, Midland, TX
- 3—**JERRY LAWLER**  
235, Memphis, TN
- 4—**KEN PATERA**  
256, Portland, OR
- 5—**MR. SAITO**  
247, Japan
- 6—**MAD DOG VACHON**  
225, Algeria
- 7—**JESSE VENTURA**  
270, Muscle Beach, CA
- 8—**JIM BRUNZELL**  
225, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**CRUSHER BLACKWELL**  
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 10—**GREG GAGNE**  
220, Robinsdale, MN

## MOST HATED

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
240, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**  
235, Boston, MA
- 3—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 4—**TED DiBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NE
- 5—**BUZZ SAWYER**  
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 6—**KAMALA**  
360, Uganda
- 7—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**  
257, Sunset Beach, HI
- 8—**THE GREAT KABUKI**  
252, Singapore
- 9—**RON BASS**  
285, Pampa, FL
- 10—**HACKSAW REED**  
249, Kansas City, MO

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 2—**ANDRE THE GIANT**  
497, Grenoble, France
- 3—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Scotland
- 4—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 5—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 6—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 7—**TOMMY RICH**  
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 8—**RICK STEAMBOAT**  
243, Honolulu, Hawaii
- 9—**DAVID VON ERICH**  
247, Denton, TX
- 10—**JIMMY VALIANT**  
251, New York, NY



# CIAL G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

## WWF

**Champion:**

**BOB BACKLUND**

242, Princeton, MN

1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**

310, Paris Island, SC

2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**

257, Sunset Beach, HI

3—**JIMMY SNUKA**

250, Fiji Islands

4—**IVAN KOLOFF**

249, Russia

5—**GEORGE STEELE**

298, Detroit, MI

6—**JOHN STUDD**

364, Washington, DC

7—**ROCKY JOHNSON**

244, Washington, DC

8—**IVAN PUTSKI**

242, Krakow, Poland

9—**TITO SANTANA**

245, Mission, TX

10—**TIGER CHUNG LEE**

270, Korea

## GEORGIA

1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**

240, Pittsburgh, PA

2—**MR. WRESTLING II**

232, Atlanta, GA

3—**TOMMY RICH**

238, Hendersonville, TN

4—**BUZZ SAWYER**

240, St. Petersburg, FL

5—**KILLER BROOKS**

235, Lancaster, TX

6—**THE IRON SHEIK**

262, Teheran, Iran

7—**OLE ANDERSON**

256, Minneapolis, MN

8—**RONNIE GARVIN**

231, Montreal, Quebec

9—**ARN ANDERSON**

255, Minneapolis, MN

10—**BRETT WAYNE**

242, St. Petersburg, FL

## FLORIDA

1—**RON BASS**

285, Pampa, TX

2—**SCOTT MCGHEE**

220, Shipley, England

3—**DUSTY RHODES**

302, Austin, TX

4—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**

220, South Wales

5—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**

235, Boston, MA

6—**BARRY WINDHAM**

230, Sweetwater, TX

7—**MARK LEWIN**

235, Buffalo, NY

8—**KING KONG MOSCA**

309, Caledou, Ontario

9—**MIKE GRAHAM**

232, Tampa, FL

10—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**

229, Marietta, GA

## MID-ATLANTIC

1—**GREG VALENTINE**

243, Seattle, WA

2—**DORY FUNK JR.**

244, Amarillo, TX

3—**JIMMY VALIANT**

251, New York, NY

4—**DICK SLATER**

235, Tampa, FL

5—**RODDY PIPER**

231, Scotland

6—**THE GREAT KABUKI**

252, Singapore

7—**JOS LeDUC**

280, Godbout, Quebec

8—**JACK BRISCO**

232, Blackwell, OK

9—**ONE MAN GANG**

402, Chicago, IL

10—**KELLY KINISKI**

260, Vancouver, British Columbia

## WORLD CLASS

1—**KEVIN VON ERICH**

254, Denton, TX

2—**JIM GARVIN**

235, Tampa, FL

3—**KERRY VON ERICH**

251, Denton, TX

4—**DAVID VON ERICH**

247, Denton, TX

5—**KAMALA**

360, Uganda

6—**MICHAEL HAYES**

255, Marietta, GA

7—**MIL MASCARAS**

242, Mexico City, Mexico

8—**ICEMAN PARSONS**

242, St. Louis, MO

9—**BUDDY ROBERTS**

247, Del City, OK

10—**TERRY GORDY**

289, Chattanooga, TN

## MID-SOUTH

1—**JUNKYARD DOG**

260, New Orleans, LA

2—**HACKSAW REED**

249, Kansas City, MO

3—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**

280, New York, NY

4—**MR. OLYMPIA**

240, parts unknown

5—**MR. WRESTLING II**

232, Atlanta, GA

6—**KING KONG BUNDY**

420, Atlantic City, NJ

7—**TED DiBIASE**

247, Omaha, NE

8—**SUPER DESTROYER**

271, parts unknown

9—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**

282, parts unknown

10—**KAMALA**

360, Uganda

## SOUTHWEST

1—**ADRIAN ADONIS**

251, New York, NY

2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**

235, San Antonio, TX

3—**BOB SWEETAN**

285, Round Rock, TX

4—**SCOTT CASEY**

235, Amarillo, TX

5—**BOBBY JAGGERS**

255, Dunlap, KS

6—**WAHOO McDANIEL**

260, Midland, TX

7—**ERIC EMBRY**

225, Lexington, KY

8—**TIGER CONWAY, JR.**

230, Houston, TX

9—**SWEET BROWN SUGAR**

226, Dallas, TX

10—**AL PEREZ**

234, Tampa, FL

## NORTHWEST

1—**CURT HENNIG**

235, Minneapolis, MN

2—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**

245, Minneapolis, MN

3—**BILLY JACK**

245, Portland, OR

4—**RIP OLIVER**

245, Tampa, FL

5—**RON RITCHIE**

238, New York, NY

6—**AL MADRIL**

235, Los Angeles, CA

7—**CHIEF TAPU**

228, Samoa

8—**BRIAN ADIDAS**

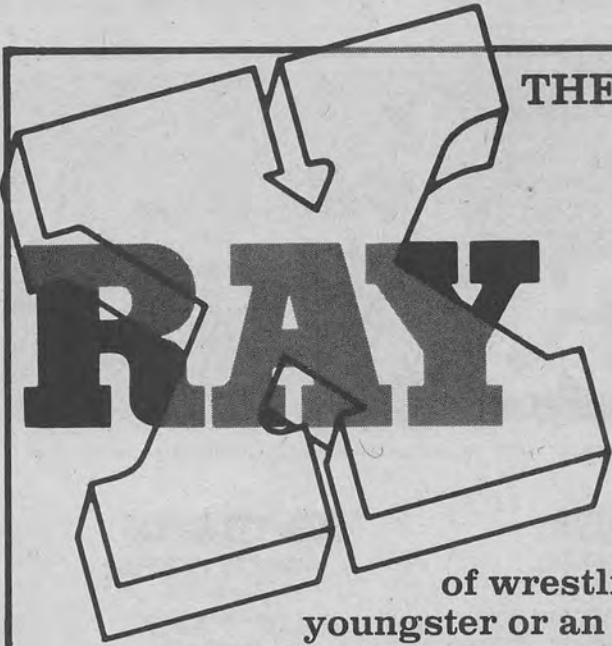
238, Dallas, TX

9—**STAN STASIAK**

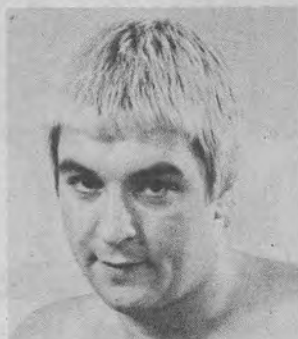
265, Portland, OR

10—**THE ASSASSIN**

240, parts unknown

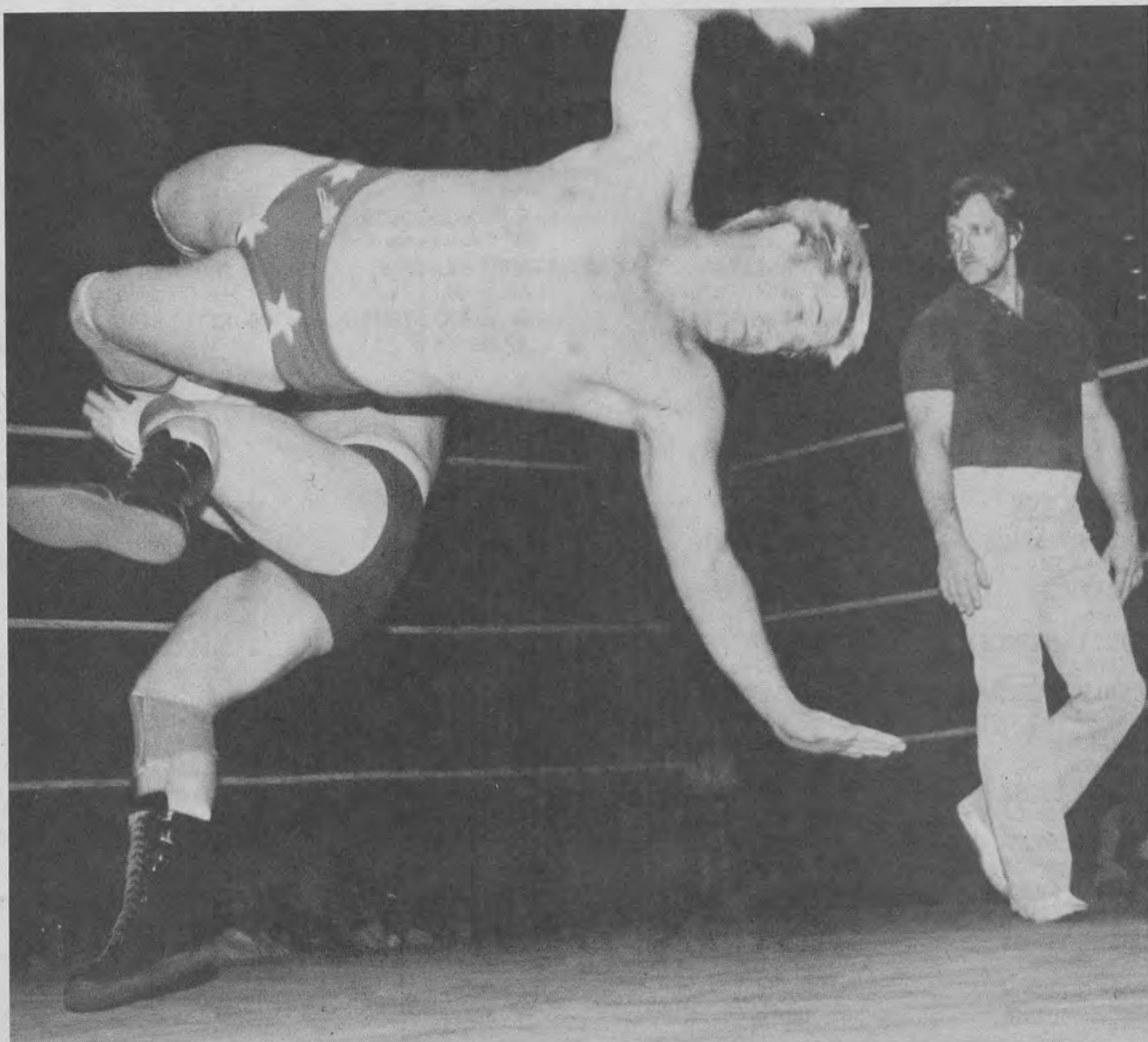


THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



## ERIC EMBRY

Each month  
**THE WRESTLER'S** panel of experts  
will offer their candid opinions of one  
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming  
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,  
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



There are certain characteristics in a young wrestler that indicate how successful he will be in the future. The physical skills he displays are often misleading. Those who eventually reach superstar status in this sport must have the mental toughness and maturity to handle any situation. Eric Embry appears to have what it takes to make it to the top of his profession.





### **BRUNO SAMMARTINO**

It's a pleasure to watch Eric wrestle, especially considering the kind of young grapplers wrestling has seen lately. Eric is a scientific wrestler with class; he depends on his abilities to win. Too many young men today think they can achieve success by cheating their way to a title. Eric cares too much for the sport to do that. As long as men like Eric remain in wrestling, the sport will continue to thrive.

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*Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is considered the finest wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.*

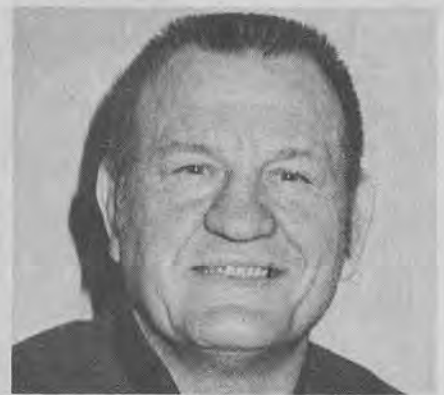


### **VERNE GAGNE**

It's still too early to judge Eric, I think. It will take several more years before he reaches his peak. I'm very impressed with what I've seen so far, but I think he still has a lot to learn. The next two years will be very important to his career. He'll have to make many sacrifices. It won't be easy. This is the critical time in his career, when he must go from very good to great or allow himself to stagnate at his current level.

---

*Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was recently voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years.*



### **GENE KINISKI**

It's hard for me to get excited about men like Embry. He's a little too cute for my taste. He doesn't strike me as a guy able to make it on guts alone. I'm not saying he's a coward, the boy has courage, but it takes a real brawler to win when things aren't going right. Embry has style, and that's where I think he may fall down. For his sake, I hope I'm wrong. I like to watch the boy work. Still, I'll be surprised if he becomes great.

---

*Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.*



### **JOHNNY VALENTINE**

Embry is the kind of guy I call a "fan's wrestler." He's cute, knows a lot of flashy moves, and fits the fans' idea of nice man. He'll make a lot of money, he'll be cheered for years, and his whole career won't amount to anything. He's doesn't have what it takes to be a real wrestler, because he won't take risks. I've seen so many fan's wrestlers in my time that they bore me sick. Embry is a benign growth on the body of wrestling.

---

*Johnny Valentine is a former U.S. champion and world tag team champion who was a top contender for the NWA, AWA, and WWF championships during his career.*



### **LOU THESZ**

I don't want to put any pressure on the kid at this early stage in his career, but I think he has all the makings of a superstar. He's quick, extremely agile, willing to learn, and he's very determined. Most young wrestlers get sidetracked very easily. But Eric has shown me that he wants to make it to the top and that he's willing to work hard toward that goal. I think he's going to make it.

---

*Lou Thesz held the NWA title a record six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.*



### **EDDIE GRAHAM**

Eric Embry is a gentleman. That is the nicest compliment I can pay a wrestler today. Every time he wins, he helps the sport immensely. He still has much to learn, but it will be a privilege to watch him develop. The boy has class and I'm sure he won't betray it. I look forward to the day when he'll be the NWA champion. The sport can only benefit by having Eric reign at the top of the profession.

---

*Eddie Graham is a former world tag team champion and top contender for the NWA World title.*

# Q&A

**Each month, THE WRESTLER will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost on the fans' minds**

**Q:** I think we should start off this interview by asking you about ...

**A:** You're gonna ask me about fat Dusty, aren't you?

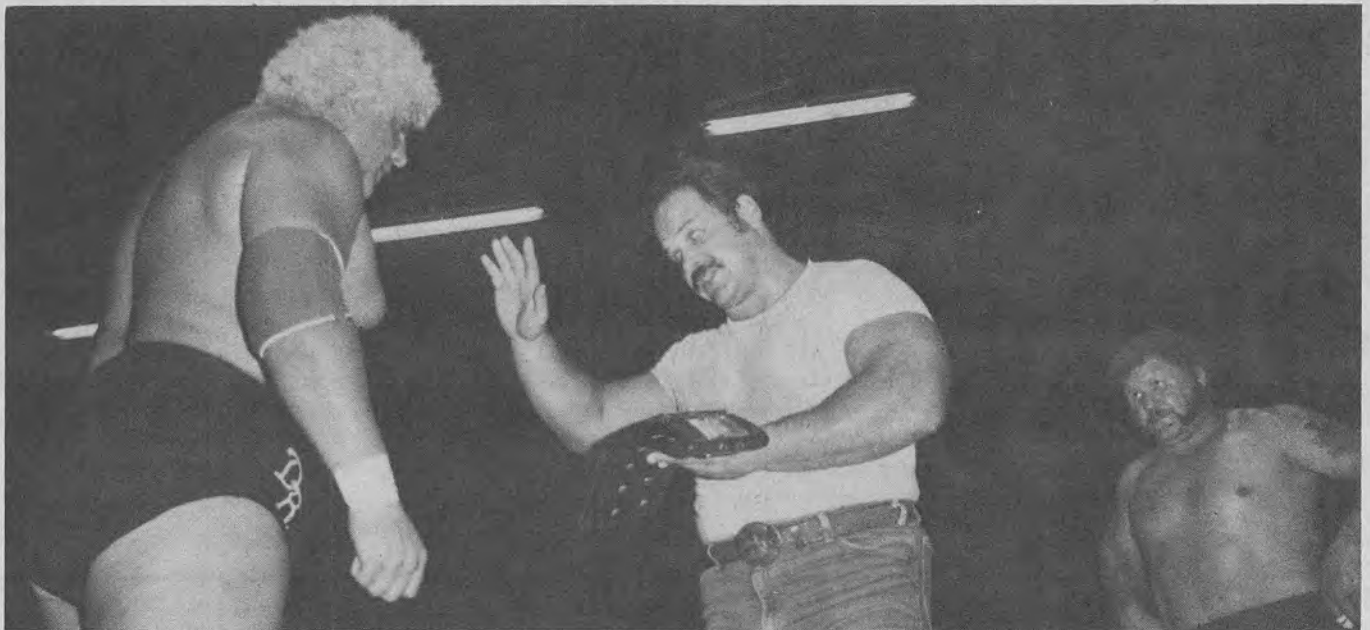
**Q:** Well, I was, but ...

**A:** Okay, I'll tell you everything you want to know about him. You want to know how he

manipulates the NWA commissioners? You want to know how he has the referees in his back pocket? You want to know how he secures title shots when there are other wrestlers, much more deserving wrestlers, in line ahead of him? Yeah, I'll tell you about Dusty.

**Q:** You sound ...

**A:** Damn straight I sound upset. You see, months ago, the NWA officials said that someone in Florida would get a shot at the NWA champion. At the time the champion was Ric Flair, but then Harley [Race] took the title. Who are the logical choices for a title shot? Well, let me explain. We have Scott McGhee, who is the Florida heavyweight champion, and we have myself, the Southern heavyweight champion. If the NWA World champion is going to defend his title in Florida, it should be me or McGhee who



"Don't get anxious," special referee Ron Bass tells Dusty Rhodes. "You have to beat Harley Race before you can have this belt."





## RON BASS

**M**ANY YEARS AGO, Ron Bass developed a strong reputation as a rulebreaker, both in the state of Tennessee and on the West Coast. His rulebreaking ways, however, did not prevent him from striking up a friendship with the "American Dream," Dusty Rhodes. When Dusty needed some help in Florida in his campaign against J.J. Dillon and his minions, he called Ron Bass, who quickly came to his aid. When Bass was called upon recently to act as a special referee in an NWA title match between Dusty and NWA champion Harley Race, the relationship between Dusty and Bass collapsed. In this interview, Ron Bass reveals what prompted that sad breakup.

gets the title shot, right? Forget about it. Fat Dusty saunters in and says, "Please, commissioners, give *me* the title shot." Like the fools they are, they give it to him. It's a perfect example of how he has the commissioners in his pocket.

**Q:** Do you really believe that?

**A:** Hell yes! Look, I'm not on a campaign to change the situation. I know that's how it is. Commissioners are there because they're all money-hungry scum, and bribes keep them happy. There's no justice in selecting who gets a title shot. It's just like in boxing: The damn WBA doesn't even rate Alexis Arguello in the top 10 of the junior welterweights, but they sanction a title shot for some unknown by the name of Sang Hyun Kim for the champion, Aaron Pryor. Have you ever heard of Sang Hyun Kim? I never heard of Sang Hyun Kim. Arguello is one of the greatest boxers of our time, and they don't even rank the guy! Boxing, wrestling, it's all the same. You have to deal with politics, and you have to cut through all the crap with a hot knife if you want a title shot. It's all politics. I don't like the situation. I may not be able to change it, but

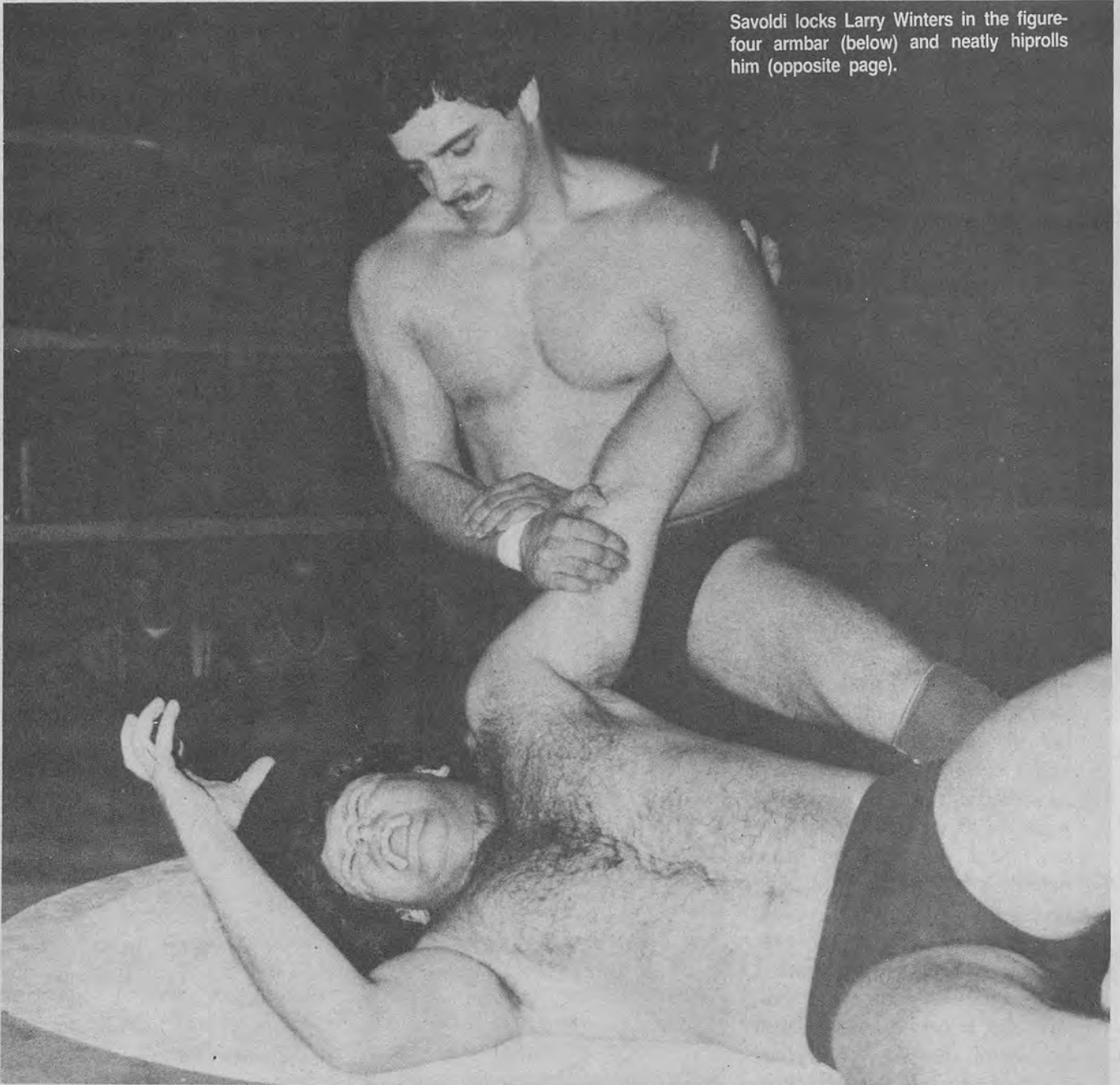
*(Continued on page 57)*



Bass keeps a close eye on the action as Rhodes applies a rear armbar (top). Bass rationalized his hideous attack on Rhodes (above) by saying that the challenger had used illegal maneuvers throughout the match.

# INTRODUCING JOE SAVOLDI

Savoldi locks Larry Winters in the figure-four armbar (below) and neatly hiprolls him (opposite page).



Photos by Craig Peters & Chaz Fenn

**I**MAGINE BEING THE son of a professional wrestler, watching your father compete against men like Frank Scarpa, Sweet Daddy Siki, Danny Hodge, and Sailor Art Thomas.

What would go through your head as you witnessed your own

flesh and blood absorbing inhuman beatings, delivering devastating physical blows, and becoming involved in brutal feuds?

Perhaps you're too young to really understand all of what is happening before your eyes. Perhaps all you see are the exciting

images of victory, missing the pain that leads to that victory. Maybe all you hear are the clangs of the time-keeper's bell and the cries of adoring fans, not realizing that it's a long road to that cherished fame.

If you're young Joe Savoldi, the son of former junior heavyweight



champion Angelo Savoldi, the sport of wrestling will enter into your blood, and there will be no way to set aside the hunger for competition, the willingness to enter into the ring and wage war against another human being in a fashion that dates back to the earliest history of man.

Joe Savoldi made his professional debut less than a year ago, and an examination of this second generation grappler provides us with a rare look at a future Rick Martel in the making, or perhaps another Tito Santana under construction.

"My Dad was in wrestling for over 40 years," said Savoldi, "and I always wanted to get into the sport. Seeing my Dad's big matches when I was a kid, watching Bruno Sammartino's big matches, it all just stuck in my head. Some of these guys had very impressive bodies, and their matches were the kinds of things you don't easily forget. I really liked it. I knew it was for me."

The 22-year-old Savoldi, who lives and wrestles in the New Jersey area, says he owes everything he knows about professional wrestling to his famous father.

"My Dad taught me all I know about wrestling," he said, "and although I'm really in the most basic stages of my career, my Dad says I'm coming along just fine. My main moves now are armdrags and bodyslams and stuff like that, but I'm working on a variation of the figure-four leglock and a flying bodypress that should allow me to defeat some very formidable opponents."

Savoldi's first pro match took place in Garfield, New Jersey, against Larry Winters.

"I remember it well," he said. "Fifteen minutes and 37 seconds. You know, it's funny. Before I stepped into the ring that night, my Dad told me about his first match. Now, I'm talking 40 years ago, and he still remembers all the details

**Joe Savoldi does not consider himself a superstar. He's a rookie and knows he has a lot to learn before he can be considered one of the best. It's that maturity that leads observers to believe that he can achieve a great deal in this sport**



about that match. He told me that the first match is something that always sticks in your mind. I'll tell you, though, I surprised myself a little bit against Winters. I went in there, and I was very confident in my moves. I guess that just goes to show that I was taught well!"

Joe Savoldi works out strenuously at a gym in Woodbridge, New Jersey, but his physique falls short of an overpowering Tony Atlas or a bulky Ivan Putski. Does the fact that his body is relatively light—he carries 220 pounds on a six-foot frame—make him feel inadequate in any way?

"Absolutely not," Joe replied. "I always admired the wrestlers that weren't very big. To me, the most impressive wrestlers are the 225-, 235-pound guys who move like lightning. They move, move, move, and never run out of energy. My Dad was like that, Bruno was like that in many ways, and another guy I admire, Victor Rivera, is also that kind of a wrestler. That's how I want to gear my own

style."

Watching Savoldi wrestle, one could almost imagine a young Rick Martel, before that popular Canadian perfected his awe-inspiring aerial attack. Seeing the physique on Savoldi, it becomes clear that his choice of styles, to go for the lightweight speed-influenced style of a Tito Santana or a Gino Hernandez, is a wise move.

All young Joe Savoldi needs now is experience. He's got the enthusiasm, he's got the drive, he's got the ambition, and he's got a teacher who spent the better part of four decades inside the squared circle. In time, his repertoire of moves and maneuvers will expand, and his ring experience will tell him how to go about defeating opponents with greater ease and skill.

When that time comes, the wrestling world had better have its eyes open. Joe Savoldi is a special young man, and any wrestling fan who wants to watch a future champion in the making should go see him in person. □

# ***Mr. Olympia Breaks His Silence: “WRESTLING II IS NOT THE MAN THE FANS LOVE”***

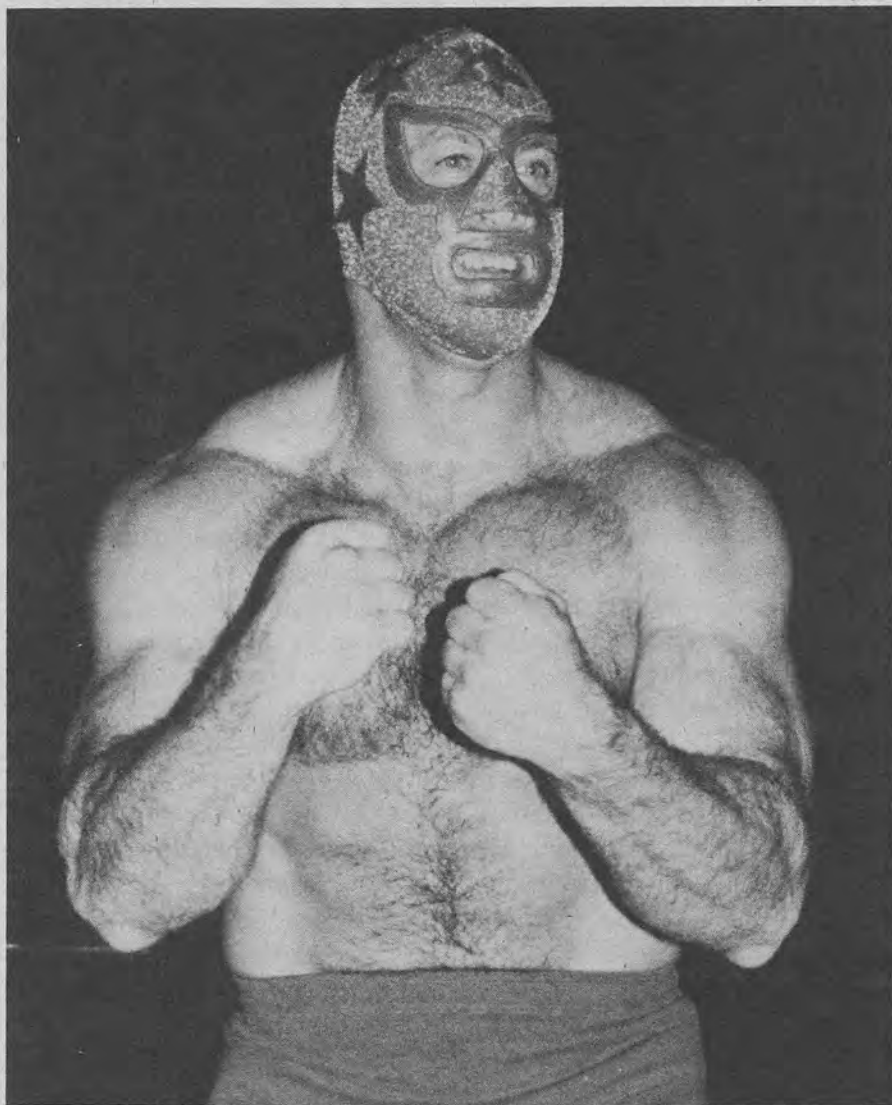
Photos by Bill Apter

**T**HERE ARE MAGICIANS everywhere, not just on the stages of Las Vegas and Atlantic City, or in high school talent shows or backyard carnivals. There are magicians in every facet of life. From the mother kissing her child to eliminate the pain of a cut knee, to the Philadelphia 76ers' Julius Erving taking off from the foul line and turning around in midair before slamming a basketball through the hoop, one can find magicians everywhere.

Mr. Olympia believes Mr. Wrestling II is a magician. How else, he asks, would Wrestling II be able to deceive the fans the way he does? Olympia has been making some startling claims about his former friend and tag team partner recently. "Mr. Wrestling II has cast a spell over the fans, and they're stupid enough to let him do it," he said.

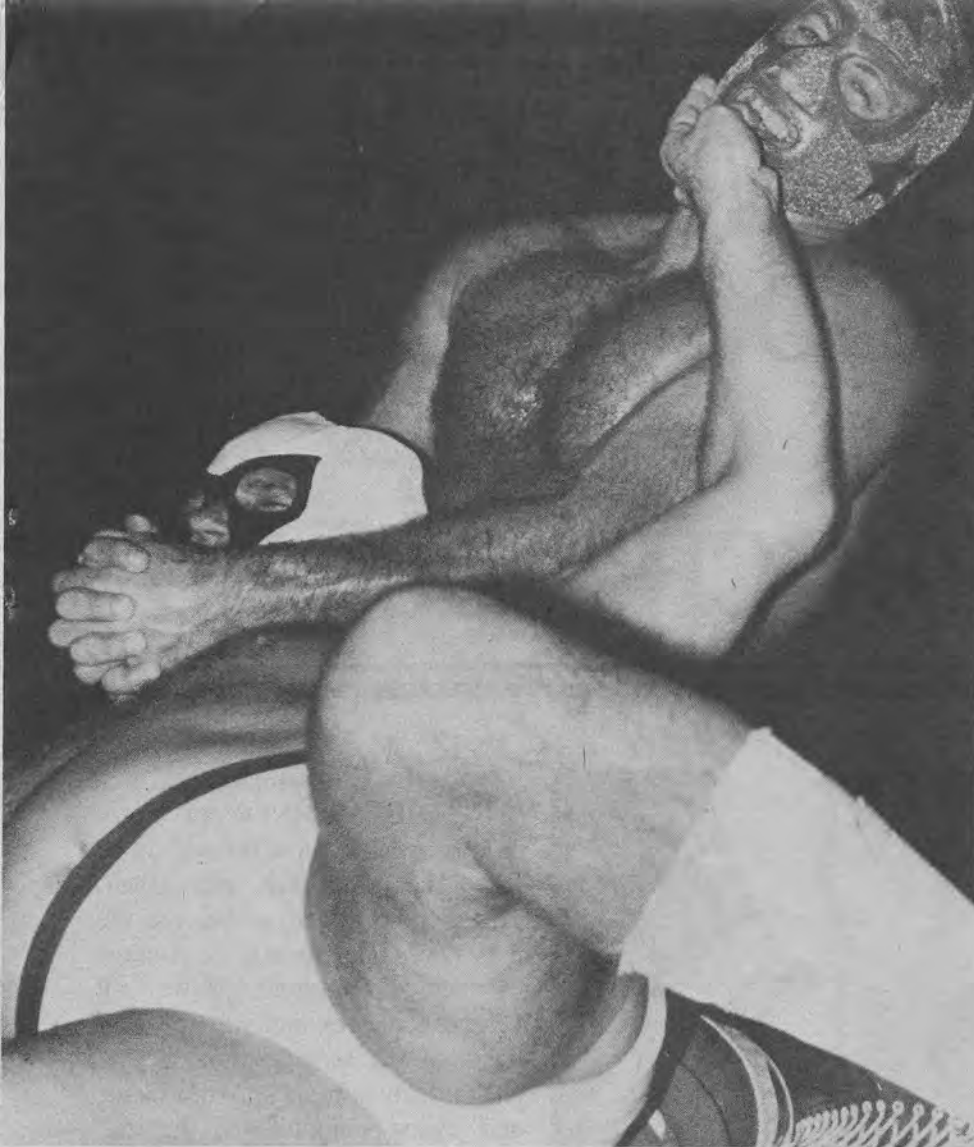
Are these the words of a jealous competitor, or is the Wrestling II persona indeed a deception?

"You bet it's a deception," Olympia said. "I know that man better than anyone around. We spent a lot of time together awhile



**Mr. Wrestling II has devoted a great deal of time to improving the image of masked wrestlers, a reputation blemished by men like his former ally, Mr. Olympia. Olympia now claims that the man the fans simply call "II" is not the upstanding citizen that the wrestling community believes him to be. Will any fans be swayed by his bizarre accusations?**





Mr. Wrestling II tries to use his left arm to free himself from Mr. Olympia's rear chinlock (above). The former friends and tag team partners lock in a test of strength (below).



back, before I got smart to him, and I know what the deal is. I know everything there is to know about him. Wrestling II is not the

man the fans love. He's a terrible person, and it saddens me that people idolize him the way they do. It's a shame, a damned shame."

It is hard to believe Wrestling II is anything but what he seems to be: a hard-working, righteous man of high moral character who gives 100 percent every time he steps into the ring. It might be even more difficult to imagine Olympia caring even a slight bit about the fans.

"You're right," he admitted. "I don't care about the fans. I realized when they put their support behind II that they were hardly worth caring about. What annoys me . . . no, what offends me, is that II is manipulating the fans just as he manipulated me. He's deceiving the fans, just as he did me.

"I could give examples. Wow, could I give examples! You wouldn't believe the things Wrestling II has done. I'll tell you, outside the arenas you would not believe the things he does. And he gets away with it, because no one knows who he is.

"It's all part of being behind the mask. It has some incredible benefits. Most important for *me*, of course, is what it does for me in the ring. Say I get whipped into the turnbuckle, right? My opponent is going to look at my face to see if I'm in any kind of pain, to see if I'm vulnerable to, say, a knee to the midsection. But with the mask, he can't tell what I feel. So he has to be a little more careful.

"That's the only reason I wear the mask. That's not the reason II wears the mask. It's the anonymity. He wears it so he can treat people like garbage without them knowing who he is. I guess the benevolent fan favorite bit is okay, as long as he's making money doing it, but on his own time, he'll do whatever the hell he wants."

Olympia, who had been pacing around the room, sat down and spoke as if he were a teacher telling a story to his class. His tone was sarcastic and the tale sounded a bit preposterous.

"This is the story of a man who thought of nothing but his own sat-  
(Continued on page 62)

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# BUZZ SAWYER: THIS MAD DOG FEEDS ON DICK MURDOCH'S BLOOD

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Photos by Craig Peters & Bill Apter



"Mad Dog" Buzz Sawyer wraps a strap around Dick Murdoch's neck, forcing blood to spurt from his open wounds. *Inside Wrestling's* Dan Shocket feels that Sawyer's brutality was justified.

By Dan Shocket

**I**N THE MANNER of every loser who wraps himself in a flag, Dick Murdoch has fallen. This is how it had to be, for the man never had the skill or courage to finally defeat Buzz Sawyer. All he had going for him was the gullibility of the fans.

Murdoch appealed to the basest and ugliest emotions of our national character. As "Capt. Redneck," he stood for unthinking patriotism, making anyone who disagreed with him an enemy of America. This kind of pride in ignorance and prejudice has accounted for the saddest chapters in American history. If it weren't for Buzz Sawyer, it might have accounted for one of the saddest chapters in wrestling history.

Murdoch doesn't have the string of successes or natural charisma to be a star. Instead, he spouted about his time as a Marine and how he was more American than anyone. If he couldn't get the fans behind him on his own ability, he was going to force them to cheer for him. He was the Marines, America, and just plain folk. It was a despicable charade, but it succeeded where Murdoch never could. The fans, as "Capt.





Announcer Gordon Solie appears to be embarrassed by Sawyer's insults of Murdoch and his family. Murdoch does not take kindly to those kinds of insults.

**In his column for *Inside Wrestling*, "Bodyslams and Pinfalls," Dan Shocket predicted the fall of Dick "Capt. Redneck" Murdoch. When Murdoch and Buzz Sawyer met in a loser-leave-town Strap Match, Shocket was at ringside. This is the report of the match by the rulebreakers' spokesman**

Redneck" hoped, confused the man and his symbols. They cheered Murdoch not for what he did but what he pretended to represent.

Sawyer saw through this nonsense as only an intelligent man can. If Murdoch proudly called himself a redneck, Sawyer would display a photo of a redneck family. If that sounds insulting, how else could he honestly describe the redneck sensibility? Murdoch, embarrassed at being shown a fool, became enraged. Disguising his personal humiliation, as is his habit, he challenged Sawyer because Buzz supposedly insulted his mother. Let's be serious. After bearing Dick Murdoch, what greater insult can a human woman suffer?

Now wrapped in the American flag, the U.S. Marine Corps, and *motherhood*, Murdoch challenged Sawyer. Though I don't know for sure, Dick must have been devastated when Buzz accepted. Trapped by his own bravado, Murdoch was



Sawyer, his face soaked with blood, drags Murdoch toward the first of four ringposts in an attempt to end the Strap Match.

forced into a loser-leave-town Strap Match. Sawyer happily accepted the challenge, knowing all the symbols in the world couldn't help "Capt. Redneck" once he was in the squared circle.

Though Murdoch tried to put up a decent battle, he was badly out-

classed from the first. The fans like to call Sawyer "Mad Dog." And perhaps Buzz tried too hard to exact revenge, and some of his tactics wouldn't pass muster in the official rulebook. But one can understand how he felt, being the subject week after week of Murdoch's hypocritical tirades. Sawyer, his patriotism smeared in the mud of Murdoch's pomposity, wanted revenge. If biting Murdoch, resulting in the victim's face becoming a scarlet mask, was his way of evening the score, none of us can fully blame him. Murdoch brought the savaging upon himself.

Everyone knows by now how the match ended. I have it from Buzz that he didn't intentionally kick Murdoch in the groin; it just happened that way. Once it did happen, Sawyer took advantage of this unfortunate but lucky accident. Immobilized, Murdoch couldn't prevent himself from being dragged

*(Continued on page 58)*

# Record-Shattering Seventh Title Reign

# HARLEY RACE

# DEFEATS RIC FLAIR

# FOR THE

# NWA WORLD TITLE

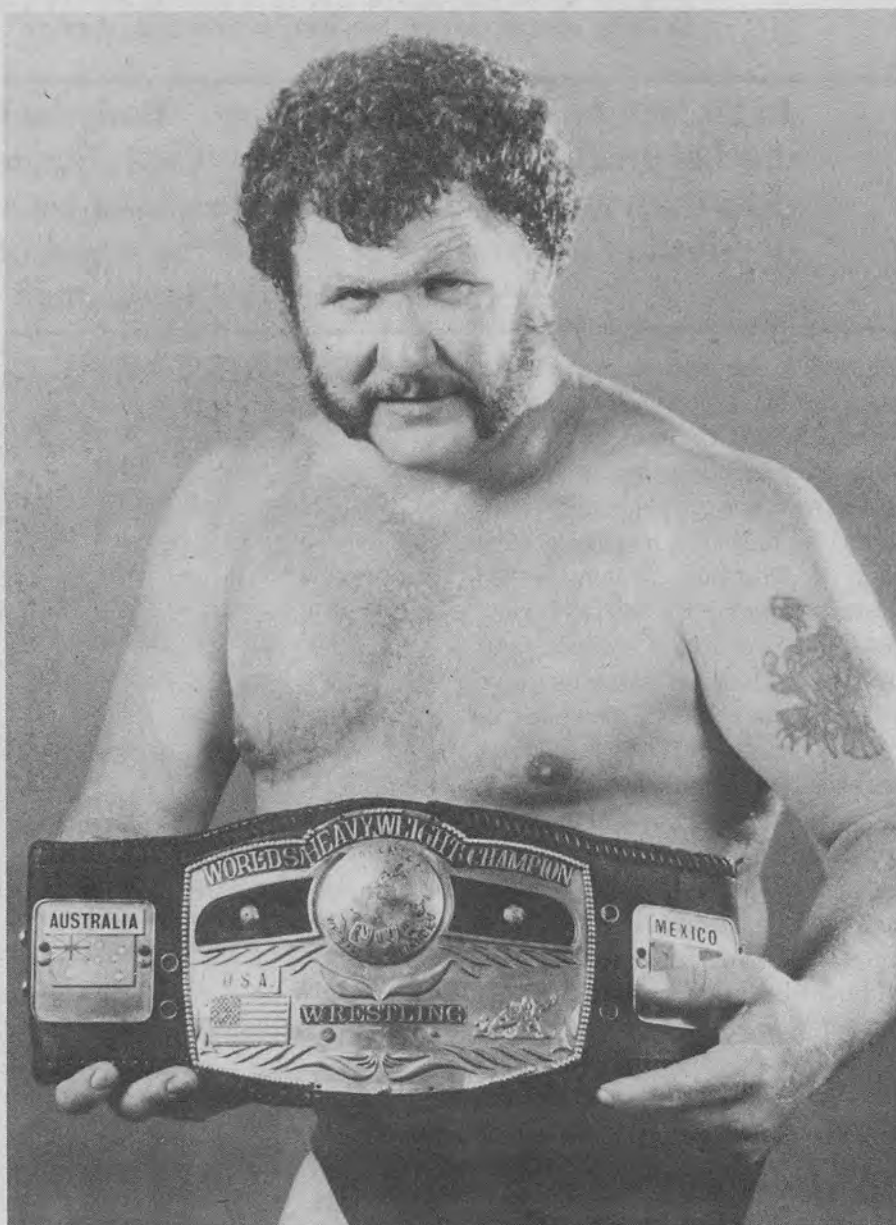
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**I**T WAS A classic matchup of champion against champion: NWA World champion Ric Flair defending his belt against Missouri State champion, Harley Race, the six-time former NWA World titlist.

For Flair, it was a match in which he could finally prove his worth against a man whose stature nobody could question. If he could defeat Race decisively, Flair would silence all his critics, proving beyond any doubt the truth of his boast as "the greatest NWA champion of all time."

But it is said about wrestling that any man can defeat any other man on any given night. On June 10 at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis, Race was hungry for a seventh title reign. After that night, Flair might not provide him with another title shot for some time to come. Race, regarded the match as a now-or-never situation. And that philosophy provided him with the edge he needed to defeat the champion and achieve his incredible goal.

From the moment the two men stepped into the ring, there was obvious animosity between them. Rather than shaking hands, Flair and Race pushed and shoved each other as the referee gave his instructions. Each man was eager to cut through the formalities and begin wrestling.



For the seventh time in his illustrious career, Harley Race has captured the NWA World title belt.





In the early seconds, Race tries to sap Flair's strength with a headlock (above). Harley lifts Ric over his head and delivers a tremendous bodyslam (below). The challenger captures the first fall with a suplex (right).



Exclusive photos by Bill Apter

**By defeating Ric Flair for the NWA World heavyweight title, Harley Race has created a record that stands alone in the annals of professional wrestling: seven NWA World title reigns. On the pages that follow, witness all the action of this incredible match that rewrote wrestling history**

#### THE FIRST FALL

Race made the first move by bending forward and charging at Flair. But the champion alertly leaped over his challenger. Rebounding off the ropes, Race swung his arm around Flair's head. Obviously not wanting to be weakened early in the first fall, Flair took immediate steps to break the headlock. Attempts at gaining leverage with his legs failed, but a series of punches to Race's chest proved successful. Flair followed up his escape by quickly grabbing Race's hair and delivering a brutal smash to the side of his head.

Race returned Flair's head

smashes one for one, eventually causing the NWA champion to drop to the canvas.

With Flair's head in his hands, it appeared as if Race was going to go for a piledriver, but instead he brought Flair to his feet and lifted him high above his head for a bone-jarring bodyslam. Flair staggered to his feet, and Race hooked his arm around his opponent's head once again, flipping Flair to the mat.

Harley moved in for a pinning combination, but Flair gathered together enough strength to scramble to his feet. Race moved in to whip the NWA champion into the corner,

but Flair delivered a hard elbow to Race's throat.

Rather than stunning him, the elbowsmash seemed to wake Race up. He charged Flair, caught him in a reverse headlock, and grabbed his trunks. Following a stunningly executed suplex, Race moved in for the pin. The referee counted three. Race had won the first fall and gained an early lead in the two-out-of-three-fall match.

Time of the fall: 11:10.

#### THE SECOND FALL

Hurling himself at Flair, Race knocked the NWA champion through the ropes, out of the ring,

and onto the concrete floor. To Race's credit, he did not attack Flair while he was so vulnerable.

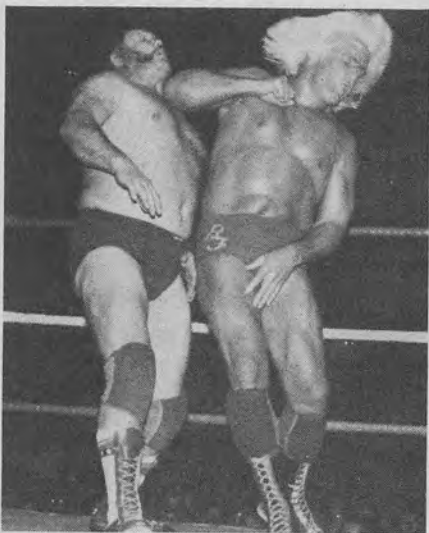
After climbing back into the ring, Flair began to concentrate his attack on Race's legs. Several kicks to Race's right leg made it difficult for the Missouri champion to stand up. Flair was gaining an advantage in the second fall, and he was determined not to let that advantage slip away.

Flair brought Race to his feet. This time, though, instead of dropping him to the mat, Flair returned Race's first fall suplex with a superbly executed suplex of his own.

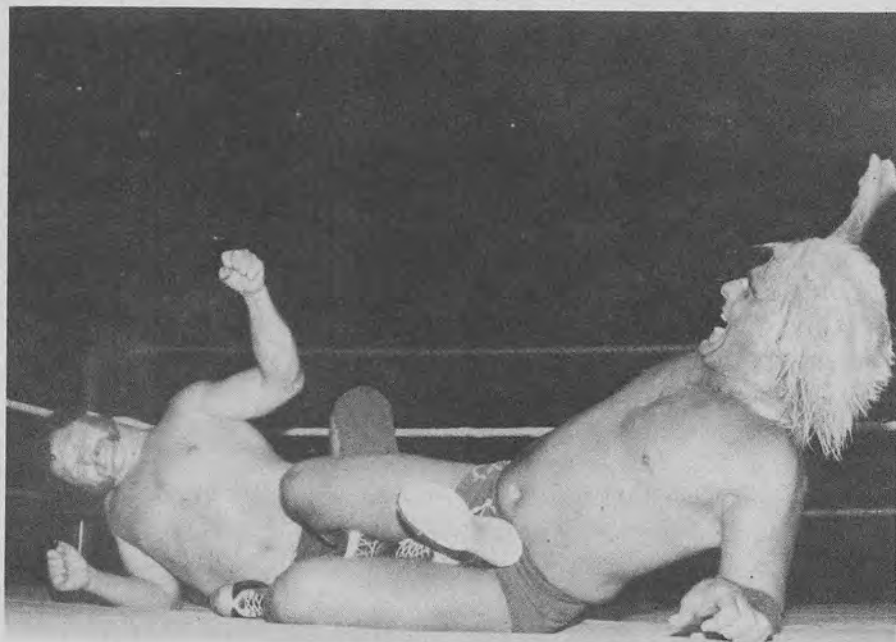
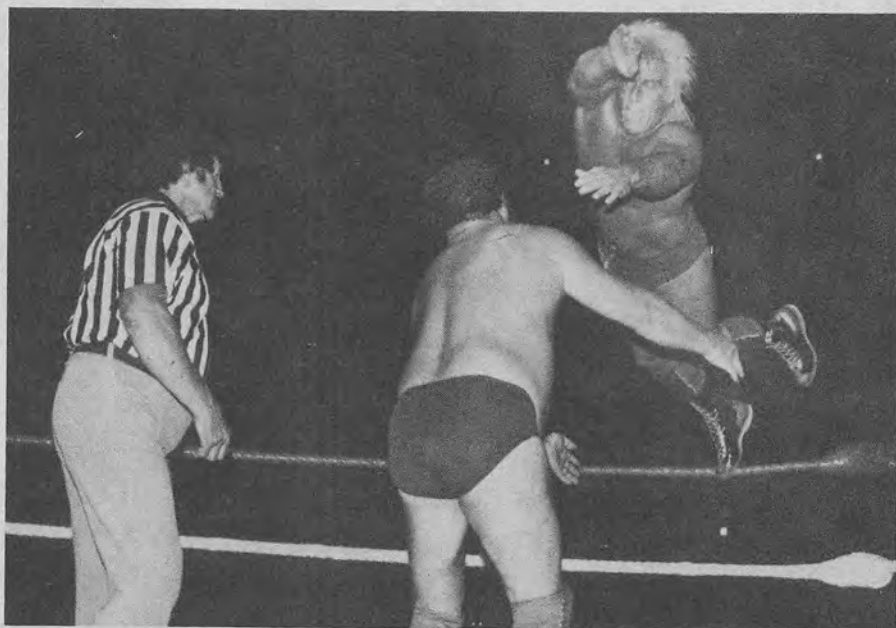
With Race on his back and weak, Flair delivered several kneesmashes to his challenger's head. Race grabbed Flair's leg as the champion came flying down on him, and struggled to regain his footing. Flair dragged Race to the canvas again and clamped on the figure-four leglock.

His leg weak and facing the possibility of having to wrestle the rest of the match with an injury, Race chose to submit and take his chances in a third and deciding fall.

Time of the fall: 10:23.



Flair catches his challenger squarely in the throat with a tremendous elbowsmash (above). Race uses his right leg to thwart Flair's attempted figure-four leglock (top right). The NWA champion dives at his challenger from the top turnbuckle (center right). Flair evens up the match, winning the second fall with a figure-four (right).







Flair, blood dripping from his forehead into his eyes, is driven across the ring by his challenger's foot (above). Flair musters the strength to execute a near-perfect back suplex against Race (right).



### THE THIRD FALL

Each man went to the ropes early in the fall, Flair gaining an early advantage by doing so first.

Hoping to connect with an elbowsmash from the top rope, Flair scaled the turnbuckles. Race was alert, however, transforming Flair's offensive attack into a high aerial bodyslam that left the champion stunned.

Race followed up by going to the middle rope and literally diving on Flair's head as he lay flat on the canvas. Race then pulled Flair off the mat and delivered a powerful series of closed-fist smashes to Flair's already bleeding head.

Race moved in to finish off the champion. He tried to suplex Flair, but Flair's defensive reflexes were serving him well. It was Race who

was thrown to the mat.

Thousands of fans cheered wildly, anticipating the end of the match. Flair mounted the top rope again, trying for a flying bodypress. He slammed into Race, and the two men stumbled into referee Sonny Myers.

As Myers struggled to regain his senses, Flair attempted the figure-  
(Continued on page 52)

## HARLEY RACE'S SEVEN NWA TITLE REIGNS

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Harley Race	Dory Funk Jr.	Kansas City, KS	05-24-73
Jack Brisco	Harley Race	Houston	07-20-73
Harley Race	Terry Funk	Toronto, CN	02-06-77
Dusty Rhodes	Harley Race	Tampa, FL	08-21-79
Harley Race	Dusty Rhodes	Orlando, FL	08-26-79
Shohei Baba	Harley Race	Nagoya, Japan	10-31-79
Harley Race	Shohei Baba	Amagaseki, Japan	11-07-79
Shohei Baba	Harley Race	Saga, Japan	09-04-80
Harley Race	Shohei Baba	Ostu, Japan	09-10-80
Tommy Rich	Harley Race	Augusta, GA	04-27-81
Harley Race	Tommy Rich	Gainsville, GA	05-01-81
Dusty Rhodes	Harley Race	Atlanta	06-21-81
Harley Race	Ric Flair	St. Louis	06-10-83

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# PROMOTER ANN GUNKEL:

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## WRESTLING'S LEADING LADY



Ann Gunkel poses proudly in front of the Global Wrestling logo. In addition to promoting cards across the United States, Global Wrestling Inc. produces a very unique and exciting TV show that gathers videotapes from around the world.



**She is a rare individual in the world of professional wrestling, a woman in a field predominantly occupied by men. Promoter Ann Gunkel's television program, *Global Wrestling*, is as unique as she is. A compilation of stars and matches from all over the world, it provides fans with the widest selections of wrestling talent available anywhere**

**“WHAT WE DO** with *Global Wrestling* is take the fans on the road to different arenas all around the country and, indeed, all around the world.”

When Ann Gunkel speaks of her *Global Wrestling* television show, she speaks in majestic tones. She has every reason to be proud of what she has accomplished.

Through *Global Wrestling*, Gunkel presents wrestling fans with tapes of matches from Atlanta, the Southwest, Florida, the Mid-Atlantic, and even Japan and Australia. The hour-long show is seen in 10 broadcast markets across the country, including television stations in California, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada, as well as markets in Europe and South America.

“A fan might watch Terry Funk wrestle on *Southwest Championship Wrestling* from Texas, then see him wrestle on *Global* in a match from Japan,” Gunkel says. “It’s good for fans, because they gain a deeper understanding of how much a wrestler travels in the course of a year, and of how much pressure he is under when he does travel.”

The *Global Wrestling* program has received so much support and positive reaction from fans, one ABC affiliate in California airs it immediately after *Wide World of Sports*, a prime piece of airtime by any standards.

Ann, the widow of world-renowned professional wrestler Ray Gunkel, is president of Global Wrestling, Inc., which, in addition to producing the *Global Wrestling* television program, promotes live



Global Wrestling and World Championship Wrestling combined to put up \$25,000 in prize money for the winner of the National Heavyweight tournament. Gunkel is interviewed by Gordon Solie as Global Wrestling representative Tommy Seigler displays the money.

wrestling cards across the United States.

Some people might feel that being a woman, Ann Gunkel would have problems in what has long been thought of as a man’s business. To her credit, that is not the case.

“Actually, the fact that I’m a woman very often works to my advantage” she explained. “It catches people’s attention right away, makes them sit up and take notice. Before people speak to me they might not think of me as a businesswoman, but after we talk for a few minutes, they usually become believers.”

Using the full promotional weight of Global Wrestling, Ann was most recently involved in a

major co-promotion along with World Championship Wrestling from Georgia. The two organizations joined forces to present the National Heavyweight championship tournament at The Omni in Atlanta. The tournament was videotaped and will be presented throughout the United States and oversees on future *Global Wrestling* telecasts.

Ann Gunkel has high hopes for *Global Wrestling*, and we’re sure you will be hearing much more from her in coming months. She has dedicated herself to presenting to the fans the best wrestling available, both in her live shows and on her television program.

So far, she’s been a rousing success. □

# The Briscos Turn Bad: NOW THERE IS NO HOPE FOR WRESTLING



**JACK & JERRY BRISCO**

**When the history of professional wrestling is written, the Brisco brothers will be described as heroes. At least, that's what everyone thought until recently. Now the brothers, victims of frustration and ambition, threaten to rewrite the history books . . . and become a part of one of its bloodiest chapters**

Photos by Floyd See

**T**HE TENSION IN the room made those present want to be anywhere else. Rage and sorrow were almost physical presences. Reporters were shocked at how angry they all were at this recent turn of events.

"I didn't realize until this happened," one said, "how much I depended on the Briscos to be scientific, respected wrestlers. It got to the point where you didn't even think about it, like you don't think about breathing until it becomes difficult. Now that they're rule-breakers, I feel something good has gone horribly wrong."

"I feel betrayed," another admitted, "as if they owed me something. You're supposed to remain neutral in this business, but we all know that's impossible. I admired

the Briscos for what they did and how they did it. We don't really live in a time of heroes, but they were as close as we come."

"It's strange," a third said, "but you can't really blame them. This is a profession, and they have the right to earn a living. Youngblood and Steamboat weren't giving them a chance at the NWA World tag team title. They weren't being allowed to earn a living. So they got angry. They may have betrayed wrestling, but in a sense wrestling betrayed them."

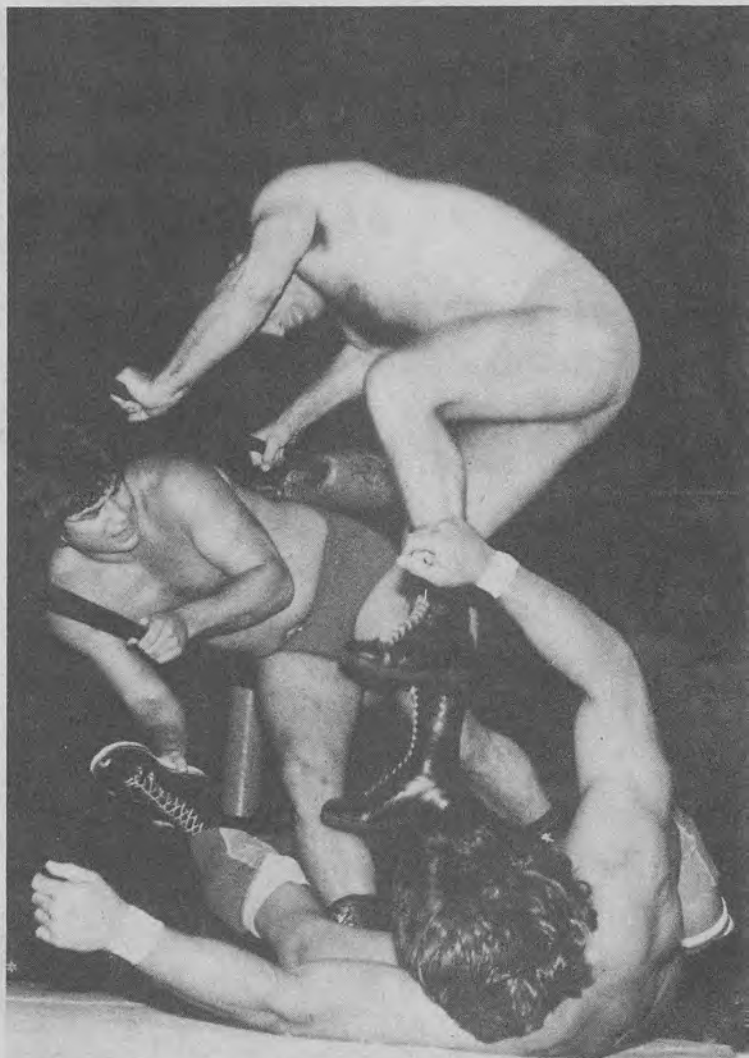
"You can't blame Jay Youngblood and Rick Steamboat," the second reporter interrupted. "These guys were doing what the promoters wanted. The promoters felt the fans wouldn't want to see their favorites battling each other. So no-

body dared book the match."

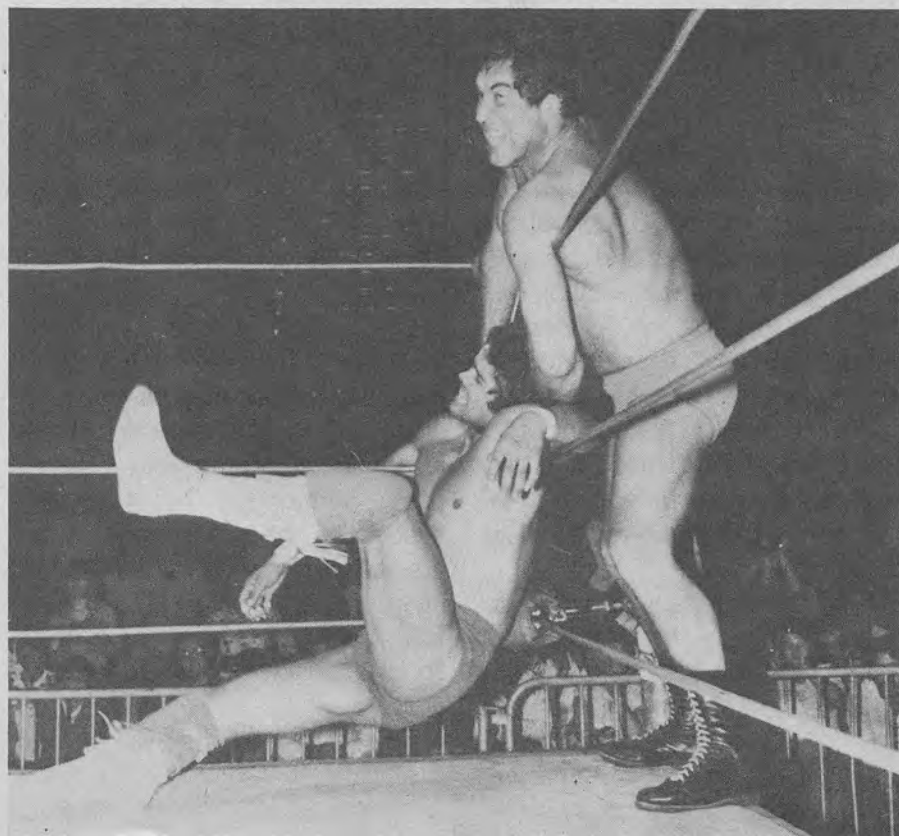
"So wrestling betrayed them," the third reporter continued, "and they couldn't do anything about it. They were trapped in a no-win situation. It turned them. Look, I talked to them three weeks ago. They're different men. Something inside them died. It's like their decency has been eaten away by a cancer of fury. It was the saddest interview I ever had. They want and need a title match. If wrestling wasn't going to give it to them, they were going to take it. If you ask me, they had a right to take it."

"No!" the first reporter shouted, surprising even himself by this emotional outburst. He calmed down before explaining, "No one has the right to turn against integ-





Jerry Brisco slams Jay Youngblood's back across a wooden barrier (above left). Jerry and Jack Brisco double-team Rick Steamboat (above right). Jack chokes Youngblood with the tag team rope (below). The Briscos' change in tactics is astonishing!



rity and decency. Ambition is no excuse. They are scientific wrestlers—at least they were scientific wrestlers. When you choose to be that, you take on the responsibilities of that decision. You don't ignore those responsibilities because you want a title shot. A man's sense of what's right should be more important than a championship belt. At one time, the Briscos believed that."

"And you can't excuse their rulebreaking," the second journalist added. "They're breaking guys legs, damnit! And not by accident, either. They deliberately broke Pvt. Nelson's leg. We all know that. There's no excuse for that. One can only condemn them."

There was a moment of quiet  
(Continued on page 64)

# J.J. Dillon's Ultimatum To Angelo Mosca:

## "GIVE UP THE CANADIAN TITLE . . . OR GET OUT OF FLORIDA!"

Hell hath no fury like J.J. Dillon scorned. Enraged that Angelo Mosca has decided to be his own man, Dillon is ready to cease being the grappler's manager. As wrestling fans know and wrestlers fear, when Dillon ceases to be a wrestler's manager, he becomes that man's most dangerous enemy!



Photos by Brad McFarlin

**T**HERE IS NOTHING quiet about a J.J. Dillon rage. It starts at the top of his voice, builds to broken tableware, and finishes in a flourish of rearranged architecture. He beats, bangs, and batters his way to self-expression. It's as if he's forcing himself to rush beyond all human control. He wants you to know there is danger.

The object of his wrath recently was Angelo Mosca. Dillon is Mosca's manager, which means Dillon considers Mosca his slave. For a short while, Mosca allowed his manager to believe this ar-

rangement was acceptable. Mosca was learning much about wrestling from Dillon and it suited him to be part of J.J.'s stable. At the same time, Mosca decided he wanted to make some defenses of the Canadian title he had won before beginning his association with Dillon. Dillon refused him permission to leave, demanding Angelo stay in Florida. Angelo went to Canada.

This is what caused Dillon to explode. Actually, the word explosion doesn't do justice to Dillon's rage. An explosion, no matter how devastating, is over in a

flash. Dillon can remain in a state of fury for months at a time. Dillon feeds on anger as poets feed on beauty.

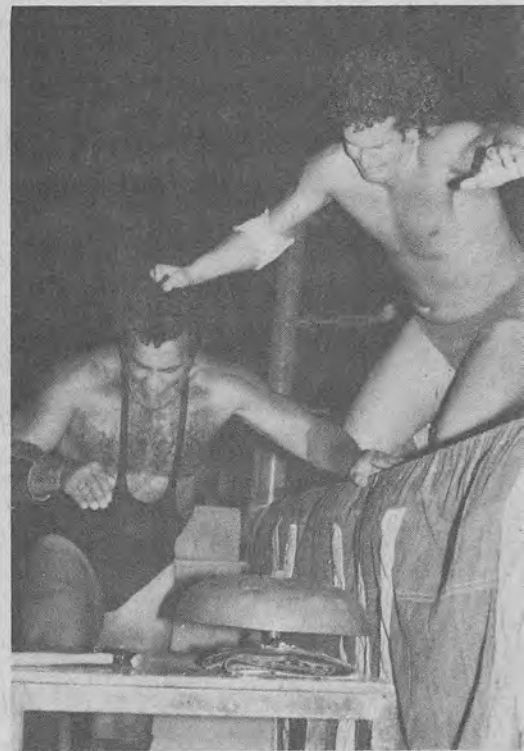
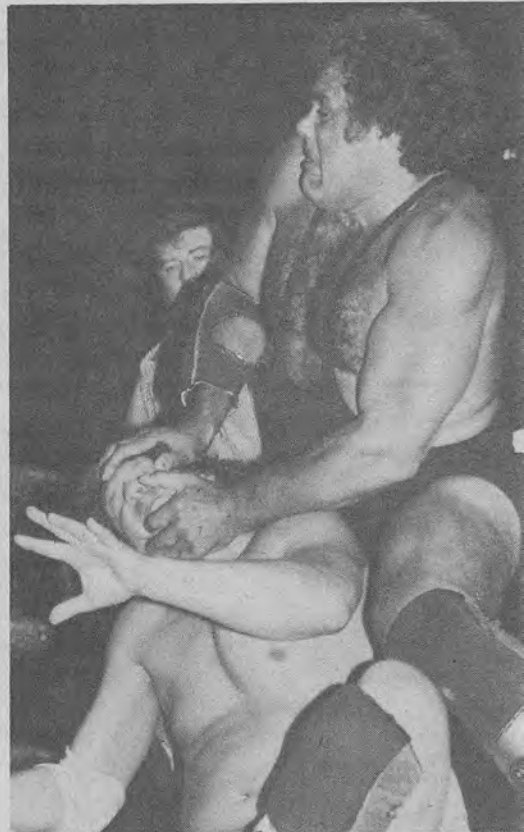
The confrontations between Mosca and Dillon always occur in a crowd. Neither man dares to be alone with the other; the discussion would soon turn into a bloodbath. Surrounded by interested spectators, the two curse at each other and bash in walls as Dillon lays down the law and Mosca spits on it. Neither man is emotionally suited to a career in diplomacy.

The latest and deepest rift has





The 309-pound Angelo Mosca delivers a devastating elbowsmash against Cowboy Bob Orton during a Canadian title defense in Toronto (above). Mosca twists Orton's neck (top right). Orton retaliates by slamming Mosca's head into the timekeeper's bell (right).



occurred because of Mosca's success away from Dillon. Angelo has recently made several defenses of his Canadian championship. The fans up north are delighted with him and his reign. Mosca, a hated rulebreaker in Florida, loves hearing the cheers of the Canadian fans. He is unwilling to forsake them for anything. Even though Dillon demands Mosca's presence in Florida, Angelo happily travels

north. Some say he also happily defies Dillon.

Everyone expected it and everyone dreaded it—the day Dillon laid down his ultimatum. J.J., not to do things in a small way, called a press conference to make sure everyone heard. His fists were clenched and the muscles in his neck bulged as he spoke.

"Angelo Mosca has two choices," he started. "One can allow him to enjoy continued fame

and fortune. The other will end his career. If he's as smart as he should be, he will choose the better offer.

"Angelo Mosca must give me total control over his career. He must do as I say without question. I have a contract that says he  
(Continued on page 48)

# FRANK TUNNEY

## He Made The Gardens Grow



Frank Tunney promoted wrestling cards at Toronto's Maple Leaf Garden for 44 years, and never did he allow himself the luxury of relaxing.

**H**E WAS NOT trying to be a wise guy. He was not trying to put off the reporter. He was answering the question in the best and most honest way he could.

"Mr. Tunney," the young reporter asked, "which is the best card of wrestling you ever promoted?"

"My next one," Tunney replied.

The reporter glared at the veteran promoter for a couple of seconds, shrugged his shoulders, and jotted down the response.

It took a couple of years before the reporter realized that Frank Tunney was being sincere.

From the first card he promoted in Toronto in 1939 to the last card in April 1983, Frank Tunney was never satisfied. There was always just a little more he could give the fans. A little better quality of wrestlers, a little better matchup, a little more action. "A promoter cannot rest on his laurels," Tunney would say. "He has to make changes, experiment, try for that winning combination. My aim is to satisfy that man who sits in the far corner of the arena, who spends his hard-earned dollars to be entertained. I owe it to him."

Frank Tunney died in May while touring the Orient in search of talent to bring back to Toronto to please that man who sits in the far corner of Maple Leaf Gardens. He was 70 years old. Forty-four of those years were spent as the Toronto promoter.

Among those attending Tunney's funeral at Mt. Hope in Toronto were Red Lyons, Fred Atkins, George Scott, and former NWA World champions Whipper Watson and Gene Kiniski. Also paying their respects were fellow promoters Jim Crockett, Jim Barnett, Fred Ward, and Vince McMahon Sr. Hundreds of other wrestlers and promoters sent cards and flowers to Tunney family out of respect for the man who gave them their starts in the sport.

Tunney was loved not only by





Lou Thesz won the NWA World title from Buddy Rogers on January 24, 1963, in a match at the Maple Leaf Garden promoted by Frank Tunney. Tunney was responsible for starting the careers of hundreds of wrestlers.

active participants in wrestling but also those who covered the sport for the media. Senior Editor Bill Apter has fond memories of the man. "I first met Frank Tunney in 1971. I had just recently started working for the magazine and this was my first time on the road. Quite frankly, I was very nervous—until I met Mr. Tunney. Frank extended a warm handshake and said, 'The place is yours.'

"It was only a few minutes before the start of the show, yet Frank took the time to bring me through the dressing room area and personally introduce me to Lord Layton, Chris Tolos, and Bulldog Brower. 'That closed door,' he warned me, pointing down the hall, 'stay far away from there. That is where The Sheik and his manager, Abdullah Farouk, dress for their match. They are madmen. They will break your cameras and maybe

your head.' I remember shaking nervously and thanking Frank for his advice."

Jack Tunney, Frank's nephew, took advice from his Uncle Frank "from the moment I was old enough to listen. Uncle Frank had a profound influence on my life. When I was a kid, he'd spend hours telling me stories about the sport's history. I was never bored and I never wanted to go to sleep. There was something I'll always remember about his stories, though: He never referred to the past as wrestling's 'Golden Era,' as so many of the older guys do. To Uncle Frank, every match he promoted was part of the 'Golden Era.' "

Jack Tunney, who assisted his uncle for several years, will assume the position as Toronto promoter. He couldn't have had a better teacher. □

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# Beyond the Squared Circle



Eric Embry draws some attention as he scouts a match from ringside in San Antonio.



Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood examine some anti-Brisco artwork given to them by fans.



David Von Erich is spotted by his brother Kevin as he works out with weights.



Dusty Rhodes, a former minor league baseball player, is a special coach of a little league baseball team sponsored by the Eddie Graham Sports Complex.



Roddy Piper wrestles with his Dalmatian at his home in Charlotte, North Carolina.





Former AWA World champion Verne Gagne jokingly threatens to bodyslam 7'4" Andre the Giant. Very few men have accomplished that task.



Mr. Wrestling II wears a personalized cap atop his masked head.



Bruno Sammartino appears to be as serious about horticulture as he was about wrestling.



Terry Gordy, Michael Hayes, Jim Garvin, Sunshine, and Buddy Roberts pose at San Antonio International Airport before flying to Dallas.



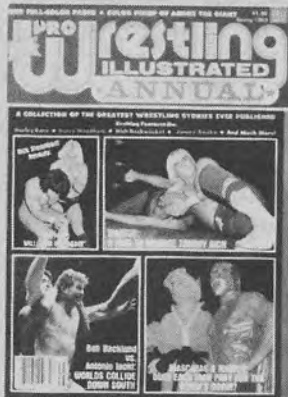
Brian Blair loosens up before a match in Cincinnati by jumping rope in the dressing room area.



Harley Race celebrates the winning of the NWA World title belt for the seventh time with family and friends. Harley's wife, Yvonne, is directly beneath the belt, and his son, Justin, holds the Missouri title belt.



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**JAMES J. DILLON**

(Continued from page 43)



Mosca, a tremendous fan favorite in Canada, snapmares Orton to the canvas (above). Despite Orton's strong challenge (below), Mosca was able to retain his title. J.J. Dillon was probably rooting for Orton.

must. I expect him to live up to the terms of that contract."

"Can we see it?" a reporter asked.

A little too dramatically, Dillon tore to shreds a sheet of paper that most believed to be the contract.

"Words are unimportant!" he shouted. "Contracts are unimportant. What I say is important. And I say he must do as I say."

"My orders aren't outrageous. In fact, they are in his own best interests. He's to either give up the Canadian title or stay out of Florida. If he chooses to ignore my warnings, then I'll enforce them. I promise that I won't be merciful. People who disobey must pay the consequences—with interest!"

"How long does Mosca have to decide?" someone asked.



"When I say something," Dillon replied, "it is automatically law. He doesn't have a chance to decide. He either does it my way or watches his career go down the tubes. Starting now."

Those who knew Mosca knew this wasn't the end by a long shot. When Angelo was told of Dillon's ultimatum, he made various suggestions as to what Dillon could do with it, many of them biologically impossible. Not calming down but getting serious, Mosca promised, "I'll do what's best for me, and I'll decide what that is. Dillon is right when he says there's nothing to think about. I'm saying here and now that someone will have to beat me before I surrender the Canadian belt. Also, I have no intention of leaving Florida. If Dillon doesn't like it, I won't hide from him. He knows where to find me. I don't think he has enough guts to look."

When Dillon was told this—and Mosca phoned him to make sure he heard it direct—threats filled the air. If only a small number of them are carried out, Mosca is doomed. Dillon's imagination equals his cruelty, and Mosca knows this. It is a brave gesture to defy J.J. Dillon. It is also very dangerous. As a man who more than once exacted Dillon's revenge, Angelo knows all too well what to expect.

So far, this has only been a war of words. Mosca still remains legally a member of Dillon's stable. No one, however, expects this state of affairs to last. Sooner or later, there will be a showdown. Mosca will head up north and Dillon will forbid it. If Mosca goes nonetheless, the war will be on. If Mosca obeys, then he will be owned by Dillon. He will have surrendered his fate to Dillon's whims.

The choice belongs to Angelo Mosca. The wrestler's career hangs on his decision. ☐

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## HAPPENING

(Continued from page 6)

with stories on **Dusty Rhodes**, **Tommy Rich**, and **Roddy Piper**, everybody would know it." Well, Bob, if they didn't before, they certainly do now.

**Bugsy McGraw** suffered a broken left leg at the hands of Mid-Atlantic tag team champions **Kelly Kiniski** and **One Man Gang**. "This is just an example



Mid-Atlantic tag team champions One Man Gang and Kelly Kiniski, under the management of Sir Oliver Humperdink (center), are on a sadistic rampage.

of what my tag team champions are capable of doing," manager **Sir Oliver Humperdink** said. "We have more serious injuries planned for **Jimmy Valiant** and **Mike Rotondo**."

**Ken Patera** has received nothing but bad press since hooking up with **Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie**. Patera, who represented the U.S. at the Pan American games and the Olympics, says he feels no shame about his relationship with the Anti-American Iranian. "He is paying me big American bucks," Patera says. "I am an American, I am making American money. I don't see what the big crime is. People are always trying to find a way to knock me. It doesn't bother



Eddie Gilbert, who was involved a serious automobile accident, has announced that he will be returning to action shortly.

me anymore. I love my country and I spend the money Al-Kaissie pays me right here in the U.S.A."

Now that **Butch Reed** has officially joined "Rat Pack" members **Ted DiBiase** and **Mr. Olympia**, his ex-buddy **Junkyard Dog** has expressed concern over the possibility that Reed had been selling information to the Pack for several months. "I did notice that several of my opponents were extremely well-prepared for some of the secret strategies I discussed only with Butch," JYD said. "Maybe he was gettin' paid to check out the Dog's secrets," JYD said.

**Eddie Gilbert** is recovering very quickly from the serious injuries he suffered in an automobile accident in Pennsylvania. He hopes to return to wrestling by the time you are reading this. "I don't know exactly where I am going to start wrestling again," an optimistic Gilbert said by phone from his home in Lexington, Tennessee. "I have several options. I could go back to the WWF or Florida or maybe stay here in Tennessee." Eddie asked us to express his gratitude to the thousands of fans who sent him get-well wishes. Apparently, they worked.

And that's happening. See you at ringside! ☐

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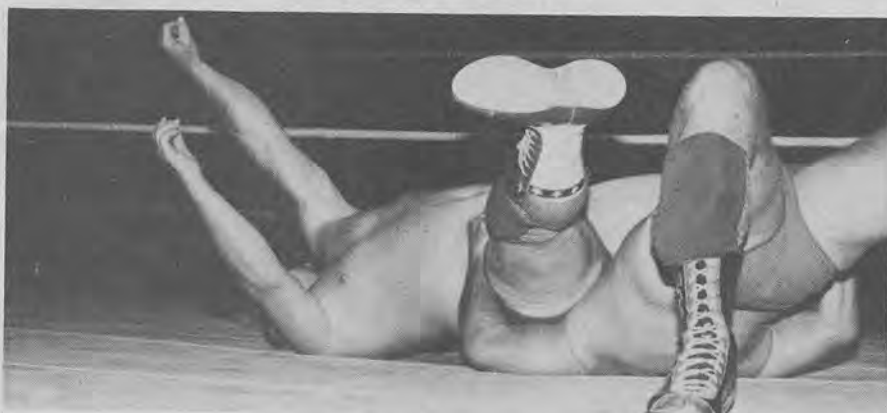
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## HARLEY RACE

(Continued from page 37)



With both men's backs to the canvas, Race manages to lift his shoulders before the referee's three-count (top). An ecstatic Race has the NWA title belt back for a record seventh time (above). Wife Yvonne and son Justin celebrate the victory with Harley (above right).



four. Race kicked Flair away from him before the submission hold could be applied.

Flair moved in and grabbed Race, setting him up for the back-drop. Both men fell back, and as a result both men had their shoulders pinned to the canvas. Myers began to count.

At the count of 2½, Race lifted his shoulder in the air. Flair's shoulders remained pinned. The referee's hand slammed the mat a third time.

Harley Race had won a seventh NWA World title.

Time of the fall: 6:17.

\*\*\*

"Flair is a hell of a wrestler," Race conceded at the postmatch press conference, "but he was too anxious. I know he wanted to prove himself in that match, he wanted to defeat me in two straight falls. That was his undoing. By being too anxious, he lost control of himself and forgot his game plan. I pushed him harder, and he became that much more anxious. A textbook case of forgetting one of the most basic rules of a title match: Maintain your mental control. If you lose that control, you've lost the match. I ought to know, I've been there myself... several times!"

Indeed, Harley Race has been there more than any man in the history of the sport. The legendary Lou Thesz wore the NWA belt six times, but now Harley Race stands alone, and he likes the sound of his new title:

Harley Race—seven-time NWA World champion. □

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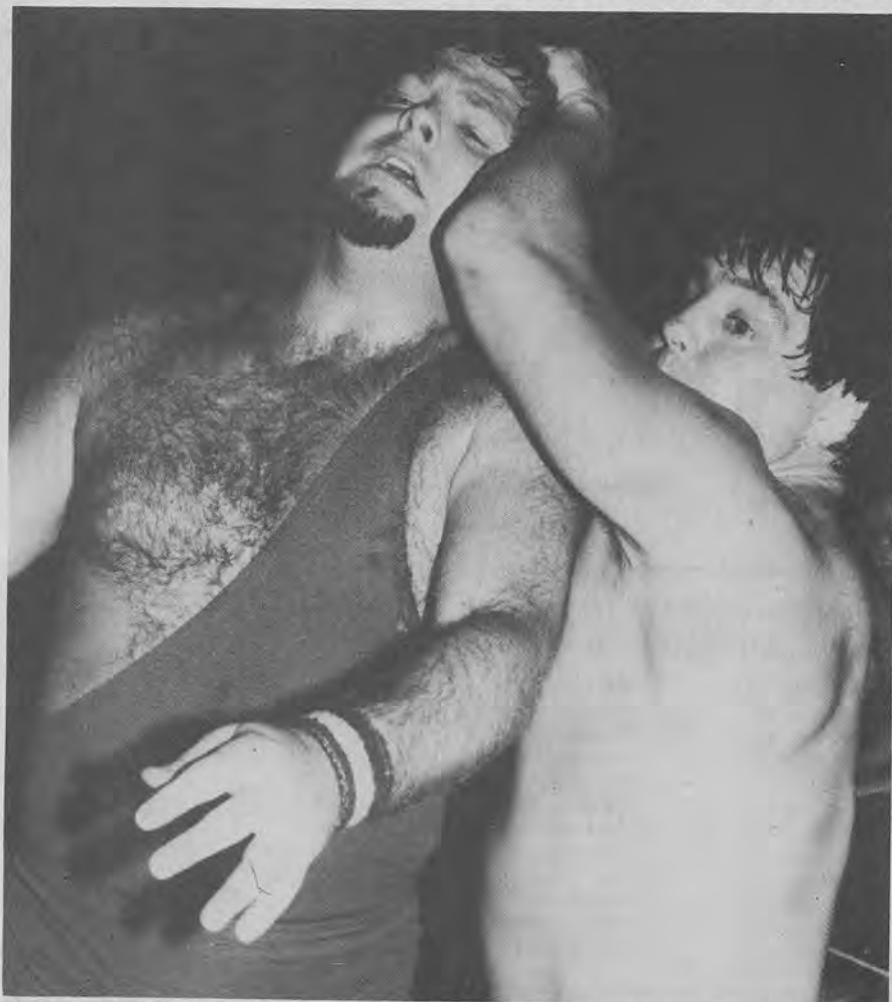
# CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

against his archrival and former titleholder Wahoo McDaniel. Neither wrestler could gain a decisive lead in this match until Valentine viciously kicked the Indian in the midsection and sent him stumbling out of the ring. Wahoo returned to the ring and was suplexed by Valentine. The champ then attempted a pin, and for extra leverage placed his feet over the bottom rope. The referee was unaware of the illegal pin and awarded the match to Valentine.

In other bouts, Jos LeDuc defeated The Great Kabuki . . . One Man Gang defeated Jimmy Valiant by disqualification . . . Bugsy McGraw beat The Magic Dragon . . . Johnny Weaver beat Rick McCord . . . Keith Larson defeated Bill White.

**LOUISVILLE, KY—Correspondent: Doug Holmes**—In the main event, Jerry "The King" Lawler met Bill Dundee in a no time limit, no disqualification Loser Leave Town Match. Dundee took the early advantage with a series of low blows. Lawler retaliated with a number of right hands to Dundee's jaw that dazed Bill enough for a cover and a two-count. Lawler then climbed to the top rope to attempt a flying press, but the wise Dundee moved out of the way. Lawler fell to the canvas, where he remained while Dundee bit open his forehead. An infuriated Lawler rolled over onto his opponent and pounded him with both hands. Dundee regained control and threw Lawler out of the ring. The King returned more



Bill Dundee grabs Jerry Lawler's head and slams it onto the ringside table. It's hard to imagine that these two used to be best friends.

infuriated than before. Dundee ran straight at Lawler, who surprised him by turning him upside down and delivering a devastating piledriver for the victory. Lawler's friends ran into the ring and sprayed champagne all over Lawler and those at ringside.

In other bouts, The Fabulous Ones defeated Bobby Eaton and Duke Meyers ... Stagger Lee beat Jimmy Hart ... The Bruise Brothers defeated Terry Taylor and Dutch Mantell ... Mad Dog beat The Angel ... Tom Pritchard beat Carl Fergie.

**KYOTO, JAPAN—Correspondent: Shoichi Saito**—Bruiser Brody and "The Bad Man" from Borger, Texas, Stan Hansen, faced Giant Shohei Baba and Jumbo Tsuruta in the Kyoto Gym,



The Japanese fans scatter as Bruiser Brody swings a chair at Giant Shohei Baba outside the ring.

presented by All-Japan Pro Wrestling. Hansen and Brody controlled the match from the beginning. Hansen punished Tsuruta with elbows, punches, kicks, and dropkicks. Baba stood outside the ring, unable to do anything but watch the Americans punish his partner. Finally, Brody catapulted Tsuruta into the ropes and met him coming back with a lariat to win the match. □

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## YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

times I just don't have the time," Tommy replies. "When I go into the ring, I may be concerned about the match, trying to review my strategy, and my mind is geared to other things besides signing autographs. Sometimes when I'm leaving the ring I have a late plane to catch, so I have to hurry into the showers and get out to the airport. When I have time, and when I can, I sign autographs, but sometimes the demands that wrestling puts on me don't let me talk to as many fans as I'd like to."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I have a question for David Von Erich: What do you think you accomplished when you spanked Jim Garvin's valet, Sunshine? Do you realize



David Von Erich is criticized by reader Patti Marshall for the spanking he gave Jim Garvin's valet, Sunshine.

what that did to your gentlemanly reputation? You are a big bully and I think you should apologize to your fans for your cruel actions."—Patti Marshall, Boyd, TX

**A:** "I don't think being a gentleman has anything to do with how I deal with Garvin or his valet," Von Erich says. "I am



Kevin Sullivan has not done anything to warrant being permanently banned, NWA President Bob Geigel said in response to reader Daniel Wade.

as much of a gentleman now as I ever was, but neither Garvin nor Sunshine deserve the respect I would give other people. When I spanked Sunshine, I did so because she deserved it. If she's whining, if Garvin's whining, that's too bad. I'm not apologizing. It's not like I put the claw on her or anything!"

\*\*\*

**Q:** "My question is for NWA President Bob Geigel: Why hasn't Kevin Sullivan been banned from wrestling? He's a disgrace to wrestling. If you ask me, he should be put in an institution."—Daniel Wade, Cleveland, TN

**A:** "There is no official reason for banning Sullivan from wrestling on a permanent basis," Geigel explains. "He was, however, suspended once from wrestling on television. Quite simply, Sullivan hasn't done anything drastic enough to warrant banning him. His beliefs are his own business, and they're no reason to prevent him from competing in the ring." ☐



## Q & A

(Continued from page 27)



Brad Armstrong, Blackjack Mulligan, and Barry Windham aid their severely beaten friend, Dusty Rhodes.

that doesn't mean I have to like it. Dusty likes to play politics; I like to wrestle.

**Q:** Then why did you agree to act as special referee for the title match between Dusty and Race?

**A:** Listen, I had an opportunity to get into that ring and make sure that the title match went by the book, so I jumped on it.

**Q:** But was it really necessary to attack Dusty the way you did?

**A:** I do what I have to do. I was in that ring, remember that, and I saw what was going on in that match. Dusty is supposed to be this wonderful wrestler, able to use all kinds of scientific moves and holds, and he is so loved by the fans. But the fans don't get as close as a referee. They don't see the headlock that is subtly turned into a chokehold. They don't see the hand smashes where a finger spreads away from the hand and pokes

at an eye. They don't see these things, so they continue to think that Dusty is fine and wonderful and a man to be admired. *Bah!* It makes me gag. I saw Dusty getting away with so many things in that match, things that even I couldn't prevent as referee, and it got my blood boiling. When Dusty had Race down for a pin, I couldn't let it happen. It was my job as referee to make a judgment call, and at the time that meant stopping the pin.

**Q:** By smashing Dusty in the face with your belt rolled around your fist?

**A:** A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do.

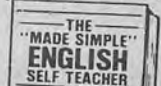
**Q:** It sounds to me like you're simply jealous of Dusty's success.

**A:** What have I got to be jealous about? He's fat, out of shape, and doesn't even hold a title. I'm the Southern champion, and where I come from, that means success means I deserve respect. Dusty is a joke. □

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## BUZZ SAWYER

(Continued from page 33)

around the ring. He went from corner to corner to corner to corner, helpless to save himself. When he was dragged to the fourth corner, the Murdoch reign of torment was ended.



The quick-thinking Murdoch stuns a charging Mad Dog with a boot to the side of the face.

"Capt. Redneck" had met his Waterloo. In a Strap Match, a man loses when he's dragged to each of the four corners. Murdoch lost. Though he tried to get out of it, he was forced to leave Georgia. A man would have left in silence. The shameless blowhard promised his fans he would return—*despite the fact that returning would violate the conditions under which he wrestled.* Facts like these don't seem to faze Murdoch.

Murdoch should not return. He should cease calling himself "Capt. Redneck" and end his career as a mediocre athlete. Insidious pandering to prejudice has no place in professional sport. The United States is too big to accept the smallness of "Capt. Redneck."

Buzz Sawyer deserves the congratulations of everyone in wrestling; in fact, the nation should thank him. Sawyer rid wrestling of Murdoch, at least in one state. Few

men can brag of such an important accomplishment. Buzz Sawyer, in this one match, has elevated himself to the top ranking of professional athletes.

After the match, Sawyer was exultant. In the biggest victory of his career, he had stood the wrestling world on its head. The "smart men" had been fooled by Murdoch's bombast. They lost their shirts. I thank Sawyer for allowing me to win six months' free rent. It's amazing how "smart men" like to lose.



Murdoch leaps from the top turnbuckle, aiming a knee at his immobile target.

When Dick Murdoch finally left Georgia, the improvement could be felt by everyone with sense. From now on, wrestlers will rise or fall on their own accomplishments, not on the symbols they can appropriate. And Buzz Sawyer is a hero. The fans may not understand it, but it's always taken generations for the greatest heroes to be appreciated. □



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# OLYMPIA VS. WRESTLING II

(Continued from page 31)

isfaction. We'll call him Mr. Wrestling II, or 'Wrestling II,' or 'II,' for short. II was the kind of man who would walk out of a busy restaurant without paying his check.

cally impressive wrestler who possessed extraordinary skills and a sense of right and wrong. The young Mr. Olympia was shocked when he found out what II was up



Olympia says he would be doing wrestling a service if he could eliminate Wrestling II from the sport. Olympia's sleeper has Wrestling II groggy (above). The popular II whips Olympia into the tumblers and almost out of the ring (below).

He would steal newspapers and milk from neighbors' doorsteps. This was all made worse by the fact that he made a good deal of money as a professional wrestler.

"II was a mystery, even to his supposed friends. After the matches, he would take off his mask and dress in a broom closet, avoiding the other wrestlers. In disguise as an arena maintenance man, he would walk out the front doors unnoticed and drive down to a local bar and drink his evening's purse away.

"He finally confided in another masked wrestler, a young, physi-





to. II would abuse the fans on the way to his car. 'You idiots,' he would scream to them as they waiting outside the arenas for their favorites. 'Those guys are nothing.' Not only did he show his disdain for the fans, but for his fellow wrestlers as well.

"It was at this time that the young, good-looking Olympia realized that the fans were being robbed. They were paying their money to see some kind of hero, when, in actuality, they were cheering for the town drunk.

"I was jealous at first, because I thought to myself, 'I do everything right, and that sleazeball still gets all the fame. So, let the fans back II, I'll get to the top in a different way.' I had to do something, right?"

Olympia seemed to be asking for some kind of acceptance or approval for his turn to rulebreaker. For the fans to believe him, though, maybe he'd do well to study magic himself. □

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## THE BRISCOS

(Continued from page 41)

and then a soft but commanding voice was heard. The reporters turned to see Matt Brock, veteran reporter, sitting in a corner. As so often happens with Matt, he seemed to be staring intently at something only he could see.

"The Briscos are wrong," Brock said, "and that's what's really scary. Wrestling has lost two of its best and there doesn't seem to be anything that can be done about it. The sport has once again forced its heroes to turn on those who love them. When that happens too many times, the sport dies. Now the question we must ask ourselves is how many times is too many."

"We've seen the best athletes of our profession destroyed by ambition. No one starts out to be a rulebreaker. It's odd that the regulations seem to push people into rulebreaking."

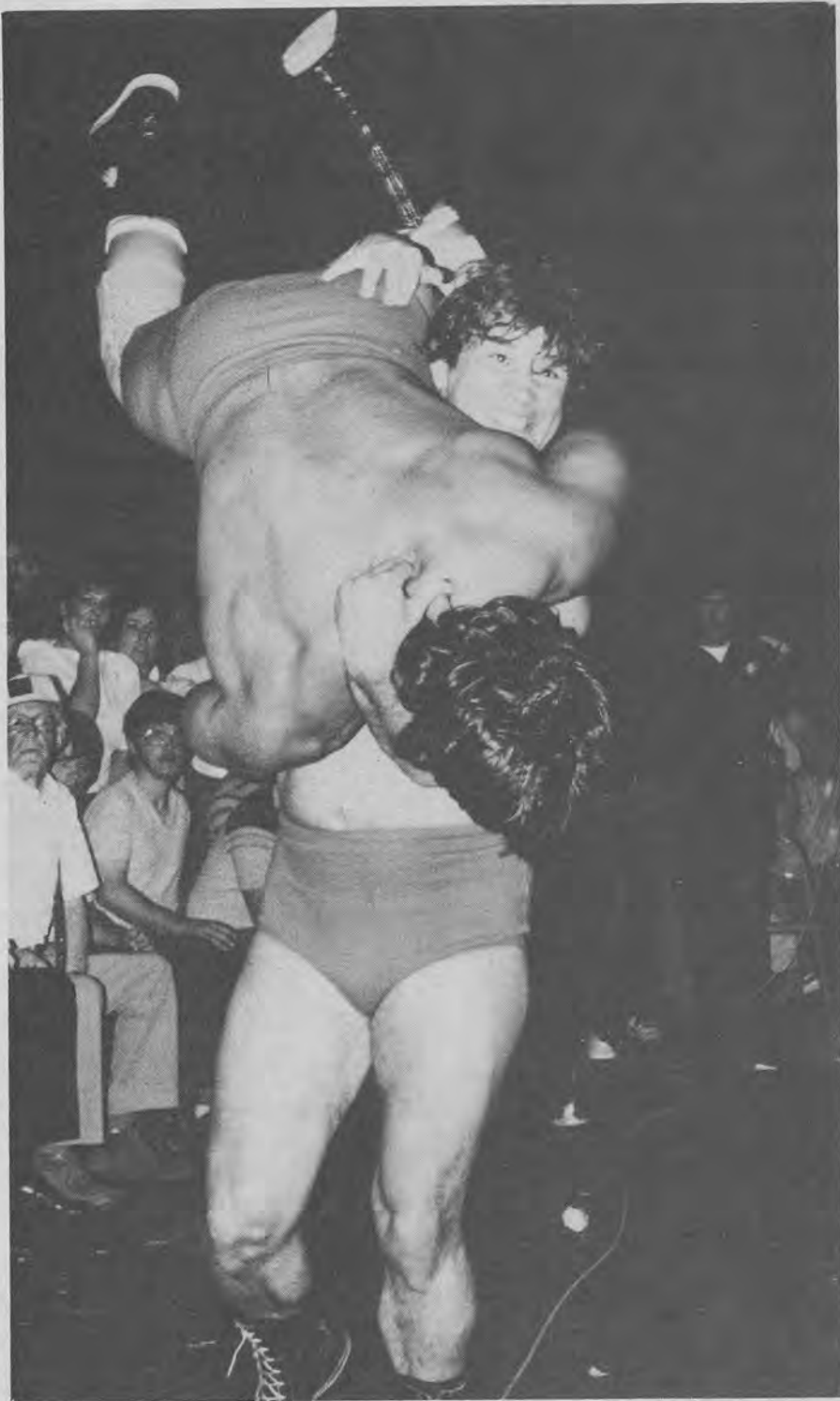
"If the sport is serious about giving its heroes a chance, the Briscos should have been given a title shot. I don't care what the promoters say. The men deserved a shot and the commissions should have forced the issue. Instead, they let the promoters call the shots. If the commissions put the almighty buck ahead of everything else, why shouldn't the wrestlers?"

"This is a business, Matt," the first reporter replied, "and you can't change the fact that money talks and people listen."

"Maybe we have to change it," Brock countered, "if we hope to save the sport from itself. If we can't change it, and the status quo drives men like the Briscos to become rulebreakers, then there's no hope for the sport. We might as well allow everyone to be rulebreakers."

"You can't change the way things are," the second reporter said. "It used to be good enough for the Briscos. The sport didn't change. They did. You can't blame





Jerry, bodyslamming Steamboat on the concrete floor, appears to be very pleased with himself and his new vicious style. If the Briscos can turn bad, anyone can turn bad. Will this sudden change mark the decline of wrestling as we know it?

wrestling for that."

"Then where do you put the blame?" Brock asked.

There was silence. Then the first reporter blurted, "The Briscos! They broke the rules, they're to blame for their own actions."

Suddenly, Jack and Jerry Brisco entered the room. They answered questions from the press, defending themselves halfheartedly against accusations of betrayal. There really was nothing to say. There was a pall of hopelessness hanging over the proceedings. Everyone there seemed to be looking for a miracle that could allow them to ignore the truth. The Briscos were rule-breakers and reporters were more sad than angry. □

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... a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give the GAIN Plan a chance to help build you up and put firm flesh on you.



## VITAL NOTE

A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

thrilled to discover that as you gain weight you will have more pep and energy for all the wonderful things in life!

## THINK OF WHAT THIS CAN MEAN TO YOU

If you are one of those unfortunate people who can't wear all the new high style clothes you want to wear... if you are ashamed of the way you look in a bathing suit... embarrassed because your legs are too thin and spindly... your chest is too flat... your arms aren't the full, rounded limbs they were meant to be... If you long for a more attractive-looking body, the safe, pleasant GAIN Plan can be the answer to your prayers!

Yes, now, with the GAIN Plan to help, it's so easy, so pleasant to add pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh... so full-filling to feel better, stronger, more vital and alive! But don't take our word for it. Prove it to yourself at our risk!

If you sincerely want to gain weight, and to look better and feel better as a result,

## HERE IS OUR OFFER...

We honestly believe the GAIN Plan to be the finest and most effective product of its type sold anywhere in the world today, and to prove our confidence, we are backing that statement up with this honest, straightforward offer...

Try the fabulous new GAIN Plan in your

## GAIN IS SAFE

GAIN is not a dangerous drug, medicine or a fishy-tasting oil. It is made of safe, pure ingredients, contains nothing which could possibly harm you, and may even be taken with complete safety by children.

## MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Send for the GAIN Plan today. Try it for 7 days entirely at our risk. If, at the end of 7 days, you haven't started to gain pounds and inches and to look better and to feel better... If you aren't convinced the GAIN Plan is a safe, pleasant, way to gain weight, don't keep it! Return the empty bottle and get your money back immediately, no questions asked!

own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt... even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and a least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

What could be fairer than that? The next move is up to you. Once and for all, determine to do something about your underweight! We know you'll be happy you did.

## MAIL NO-RISK COUPON TODAY

**GAIN PRODUCTS CORP. Dept G700**  
Box 2346, Carbondale, Ill. 62901

Please send my package of GAIN Plan immediately with the understanding that if I am not satisfied, I may have my money back, no questions asked.

- ☐ One GAIN PLAN for \$9.98
- ☐ SAVE \$2.00! Order 2 for \$17.96
- ☐ SAVE \$5.00! Order 3 for \$25.00

Enclosed is \$

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